

THE EMPRESS OF HEAVEN

Screenplay

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FADE IN:

EXT. JERUSALEM ALLEYWAY - DAY

Deserted, forsaken, dirty narrow alleyway - menacing.

A lip-curling, scavenger dog feeds its suckling pups,  
viciously chewing and tearing apart a sack of rotten fish.

Above, a dozen menacing ravens. The bitch snaps and leaps  
skyward at the black, out-of-reach, threatening, flocking  
thieves above.

**SCREEN READS**  
**JERUSALEM ISRAEL - FRIDAY APRIL 7TH**  
**30 A.D. - 8:50 AM**

From around the corner...

MARY OF NAZARETH (50), the mother of Jesus, fraught with  
crucifying grief and terror is with close friend, MARY  
MAGDALENE (40) and MARY OF CLOPAS (II) sister to Joseph.

They're led up the squalid, bending, tenuous alleyway by the  
APOSTLE JOHN (35).

APOSTLE JOHN  
Women. Cover your hair. Keep your  
heads down, eyes and faces hidden.

Our heroes gather - out of breath. Beyond, looms a din of  
converging threat.

MARY MAGDELENE  
And, out of sight of Pilate's men.

MARY OF CLOPAS  
And, the scribes.

The cackling ravens lift and fly - carrying with them an  
unlucky, yelping pup careening away heads above John and the  
women.

APOSTLE JOHN  
LOOK OUT!!

EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - 9 AM - DAY

A baited mass of Gentiles, Jews, and Ishmaelites - push and  
shove - await the first sight of Prefect Pilate's condemned.

MASS OF PEOPLE  
Crucify him! Crucify...

MILITARY ROMAN SOLDIERS, PALINURIS and FAUNAS (30's) confront the badgered anthem of mass agitation.

ROMAN SOLDIER PALINURIS  
Back! Get back!! Away from the  
gates!

Dark prison shadows give way to early morning sunlight and the lone figure of a bludgeoned man - JESUS OF NAZARETH (33).

EXT. DWELLING STAIRWELL - DAY

Mary, harrowed, rushes up a narrow adjacent clay-staircase followed by John, Magdalen and Mary of Clopas.

MARY  
This way. We can see him from here!

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

The three Marys and John rush across the rooftop. Arriving at roof's edge - all of Jerusalem surges before them.

MARY  
There... in front of the garrison  
doors!

Seeing Jesus afflicted and alone, Mary drops to her knees on the rooftop from sorrow.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Jesus...

Adjacent alleyways fill with streaming hordes of aggravated Israelites - pushing, tripping, shoving, fighting.

MARY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
He'll die alone if we don't get to  
him.

EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - 9 AM - DAY

With head down, adorned with a piercing crown of woven thorns, Jesus wears a mocking red Roman robe.

ROMAN SOLDIER PALINURIS  
Prisoner, step forward!

Jesus steps forward, barefoot and bleeding. He faces the aggravating blend of those sympathetic and those who are not.

ROMAN SOLDIER FAUNAS  
It has been decreed by Pontius  
Pilate.

Eleven cloaked figures - APOSTLES (30's), push their way through the crowd - horrifying bits and pieces come into view of their harrowed, beloved master.

APOSTLE PETER

Jesus...

ROMAN SOLDIER FAUNAS (CONT'D)

Prefect of the Roman province of  
Judaea, serving under Emperor  
Tiberius Caesar Divi Augusti.

APOSTLE ANDREW (35) sees SANHEDRIN TEMPLE SCRIBES, AHARON and NETANEL (40's) taking notes of Jesus sympathizers.

APOSTLE ANDREW

Scribes. They'll crucify us too if  
they see we're here.

Jesus pants and trembles from the exhaustive bludgeoning.

ROMAN SOLDIER FAUNAS (CONT'D)

That the condemned, under the  
authority of Caesar, shall be put  
to death by - *patiens supplicium...*  
*cruciamantum* - crucifixion - until  
dead.

Anger and street violence explodes once more! "Crucify him!  
Crucify him! Jesus - save yourself!"

The Apostles cover their faces, turn from Jesus and meld back into the surging crowd.

APOSTLE JUDE THADDEUS

Forgive us, Master.

EXT. 2ND JERUSALEM ALLEYWAY - DAY

Apostle John vigorously leads Mary, Magdalen and Mary of Clopas up a narrow alleyway adjacent to the Via Dolorosa.

APOSTLE JOHN

This way! Quickly.

EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - DAY

A small ragged BOY (11) finds his way through the mass of people to the edge of the crowd near the garrison doors.

Jesus, stands before the Alexandrian Crux Immissa - the Roman cross lifting up his head to see the boy - empathetic, tearful.

BOY

Let the angels save you now, Jesus.

Jesus, steadies himself taking one small step toward the boy.

BOY (CONT'D)

Let them save us all.

The eyes of Jesus lift. The boy is identified as a satanic associate - the boy oddly smiles.

BOY (CONT'D)

Your friends have abandoned you.  
Your mother is too afraid. She's  
not coming. Turn these beams into  
wings and fly home with me.

JESUS

Away from me, Satan.

Roman guards place two ropes around the neck of Jesus and step back in opposing directions.

ROMAN SOLDIER FAUNAS

Pick it up, Messiah!

EXT. 2ND JERUSALEM ALLEYWAY - DAY

John and the three women turn a corner. Mary slows - takes notice of a supernatural emptiness - void.

MARY MAGDELEN

Mary?

Mary turns.

APOSTLE JOHN

What is it?

Mary holds in the middle of the street. We hear odd, otherworldly sounds - like a pack of chortling jackals.

Mary approaches a small cantina-like, structure.

Apostle John turns to come back to her. Alone, Mary pushes her way through the doors.

APOSTLE JOHN (CONT'D)

Mary? No!

INT. CANTINA ALLEY BROTHEL - DAY

Mary steps inside. Dark, dank. The floor itself, imbalanced, off-center, leaning.

LUCIFER'S CONFEDERATES, ALASTOR (40's), BAPHOMET (30's) wears a Goat Head, ASMODEUS, (30's) the orgy loving demon of sensuality, ASTAROTH (20) the female demon of lasciviousness, and others - all self-satisfied in demonic victory, glorifying themselves in their destruction of Jesus.

Mary stands front and center in the axis of evil, alone, in hell's brothel satellite.

The heckling demon Boy scurries past and resumes his cavern duties serving drink to those throughout.

BOY

I tried to tell him you wouldn't be there. He wouldn't listen.

MARY

Get away from me.

Mary looks to see one man, the alpha of the rest, Alastor, handsome, arrogant, charismatic, volatile, tormenting.

ALASTOR

Who has come in through the door?

All movement in the hellish brothel slows. The cantina falls silent. Alastor turns to Mary.

Alastor approaches.

ALASTOR (CONT'D)

Ah, lovely. And, who are you?

MARY

I'm the mother of the carpenter.

ALASTOR

Ahh... Of course. The bearer of a false messiah, who hangs today for his blasphemies.

Alastor signals. The entire demonic congregation mocks Mary by genuflecting.

MARY

You celebrate in his destruction?

ALASTOR

We celebrate the children of Moses getting back their faith, and the Roman occupiers getting back their law and order.

MARY

And, you? What do you get?

Alastor steps closer to Mary.

ALASTOR  
Revenge - of course.

MARY  
Then you've miscalculated. The  
death you bring, will itself be  
beaten by it. And, you will be a  
sad witness to its passing.

EXT. CRUCIFIXION SITE - DAY

John, Mary, Mary Magdalen and Mary of Clopas push their way  
toward the Roman cordoned parameter to see the encircling  
executioners.

MARY  
Jesus! No!! Jesus, no...

CENTURION CRUCIFIERS' OVID, PAMPHILUS, and CASSIEL (30'S)  
stand by.

Jesus stands bearing the weight of his cross between the two  
condemned criminals - DISMAS and GESTAS (40's).

He stands witnessing and waiting for his turn.

Each of the criminals beside him are suddenly muscled forward  
to the ground by Roman Guards.

DISMAS  
No!

CRUCIFIER OVID  
Get on it!

Roman clubs are brought to the backs of their legs.

CRUCIFIER PAMPHILUS  
Get down!

The men drop onto their own crucifixes - are forced to their  
backs - hands and arms pulled and wrestled open, tied off and  
stretched wide.

GESTAS  
No... Please... Please. NO!!

Jesus drops the cross from his bruised and faltering  
shoulders. Depleted, he too drops to his knees before it.

JESUS

The guilty sons of Adam, I take  
upon my shoulders the wood of  
sacrifice...

Heavy nails are placed unto the tops of hands and ankles of  
the accompanying men. With no delay, on command, the timber  
nails are driven in.

DISMAS / GESTAS

Argh...

Jesus picks himself up to his feet. Dried and cracked blood  
fill his teeth and lips.

JESUS

From thou art today, that may not  
anyone be servants...

He turns to his Mother, Magdalen and Apostle John.

JESUS (CONT'D)

But sons and heirs of thy kingdom  
together with me.

Jesus is savagely kicked onto the width of the awaiting  
timber.

CRUCIFIER OVID

Get on it, messiah!

MARY MAGDELEN

Jesus...

He is then mauled and flipped over to his back.

CRUCIFIER OVID

Your hour is at hand, King. Open  
'em up or, we'll pull 'em apart!

Jesus obeys the commands willingly - opening arms wide across  
the top of the open beam.

The Roman Soldier leans over the condemned.

CRUCIFIER PAMPHILUS

You take orders well for a king of  
the Jews.

The Roman Guards then position themselves over Jesus' hands  
and feet, catching tossed mallets and nails from surrounding  
Roman attendees.



CRUCIFIER OVID  
Pamphilis, take the right, I'll  
take the left. Cassiel, cross his  
feet and legs.

Aharon and Netanel - Temple Scribes, work through the crowd  
with scrolls and ink reeds - taking the names of  
sympathizers.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Mary Magdalen. Take Mary's hand.  
Comfort her.

EXT. GOLGOTHA - CROWD - DAY

Apostle John rushes angrily toward the Temple Scribes pushing  
others out of his way.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Pilate washed his hands of this  
murder and you delight in it?!!

AHARON SCRIBE  
What is your name?

APOSTLE JOHN  
My name?

John grabs their scrolls and rips them apart!

APOSTLE JOHN (CONT'D)  
My name is John. Son of Zebedee and  
Salome, brother of James. The man  
you crucify is my friend. Write  
it... Write it all down!!

John pushes the men to the ground, turns to see.

EXT. GOLGOTHA HILLTOP - DAY

Two gentile women, PENINA and RAIZEL (40's) circle Mary and  
Magdalene - their contorted faces in accusation.

GENTILE PENINA  
There she is. The mother. Mary of  
Nazareth.

GENTILE RAIZEL  
Your son is a criminal ! Turning  
the pharisees against even our own  
people!!

GENTILE PENINA  
And Magdelen? You've been seen with  
this man in the streets. He has  
spoken to YOU!

Apostle John approaches, strong-arms the Hags away from the  
Marys.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Get away from us!! AWAY FROM US!!

EXT. CRUCIFIXION SITE - DAY

Frenzied crowd.

Thick timber-nails fly overhead of the lying body of Jesus -  
caught and grabbed by strong centurion hands.

MARY (O.S.)  
Jesus... No.

The Roman Soldiers position themselves accordingly. The  
surrounding crowds laugh, gawk - others repel in horror.

CRUCIFIER OVID  
Cassiel, pull his fingers apart.

Cassiel opens up the palm of Jesus.

CRUCIFIER CASSIEL  
Just like your shaking my hand.

Nails are then placed directly in the middle of each of his  
palms, atop his crossed feet.

ONLOOKER # 2  
The one who would destroy the  
temple and in three days rebuild  
it, save yourself now!

The executioner's raise their mallets high.

MARY  
Jesus!

JESUS  
Mother...

CRUCIFIER OVID  
Comiti de tribus... unum, duo,  
tria!

The mallet thrusts down onto the wide nail-head through the  
right hand of Jesus - bones split, tendons crush.

JESUS

Ahhh!

CRUCIFIER OVID

Now the other.

The second soldier holds down the hand of Jesus and positions the nail - raises the mallet.

CRUCIFIER PAMPHILUS

Unum, duo, tria!

The third mallet is brought down with Roman might.

JESUS

Ahh...

MARY MAGDELEN

Murderers, murderers...!

Jesus gasps in suffering. Mary drops to her knees in unfathomable dread - she prays.

MARY

Merciful God take the suffering of  
Jesus and give it to me...

The crosses of Dismas and Gestas, condemned criminals are dragged, lifted, raised and dropped into position.

CRUCIFIER OVID

Last one. Get him up!

Roman Sentries position themselves under the upper-part of Jesus' Crux Immissa with heaving shoulders - others push upward with their halberds and lances.

CRUCIFIER CASSIEL

Pull!! Pull!

The heavy wooden beam slides across the open hole into the dug-out ground, dropping two feet, jarring wildly the body of Jesus.

JESUS

Argggh...

FEMALE ONLOOKER # 2

Save yourself, Jesus!!

The lurid, crucifying free-for-all of the three condemned gets fully underway.

EXT. GOLGOTHA HILLTOP - DAY

Mary turns and sees the demon confederates immersed in the gathered crowd - hiding, huddling, cowering.

MARY

John? Take me to them.

Apostle John escorts Mary through the melee and spectacle arriving before Lucifer's abettors.

MARY (CONT'D)

Remain motionless, demons.

Mary, shaking in terror and alarm - confronts.

MARY (CONT'D)

By the words of the living God,  
today you and your confederates  
have delivered your own  
destruction.

The associated demons, held before Mary and The Passion - writhe in torment.

MARY (CONT'D)

...and witness the salvation of  
man.

Alastor's collaborators look up to see Jesus - bleeding, hanging.

MARY (CONT'D)

And, behold the ruin of yourselves  
and those from where you came.

EXT. CRUCIFIXION SITE - DAY

Roman soldiers reach for their whips once more - begin again with their long drawn-out slashing to the exposed torsos of the hanging men.

CRUCIFIER OVID

Ecce homo, huh?! (What a man,  
huh?!)

Lucifer's demons move closer to the hanging Jesus looking for any indication he is God.

JESUS

Father, forgive them, for they know  
not what they do.

ASMODEUS

He offers a pardon of sins for the  
children of Adam...

Mary bravely looks up to her bludgeoned son - Jesus down to  
Mary, John and Mary Magdalen.

JESUS

Mother... Fear not for me. But for  
the kingdom of my father is at  
hand.

INT. NORTHERN TEMPLE VERANDA - LATER - DAY

Pharisee Priests, ANNAS (60) and son-in-law, JOSEPH CAIAPHAS  
(40's) look out towards The Hill of Skulls in the distance.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

I don't take pleasure in what is  
being done today.

PHARISEE ANNAS

He was a Jew who claimed to be the  
messiah. Did you see this man as  
the "very-weapon" of the Lord  
brandishing himself against our  
oppressors in Egypt? Or, would you  
rather be pushed beyond the  
Euphrates to become lost in  
history?

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

No.

PHARISEE ANNAS

We had two choices today, Caiaphus.  
Accept him as the word Incarnate,  
as he claimed, or execute him in  
accordance with the laws of  
Leviticus. Either our laws mean  
something, and we are Jews, or,  
they don't and we are not.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

And, yet sympathetic to nearly all.

Annas crosses to view the open city.

PHARISEE ANNAS

Turn away from the spectacle,  
Caiaphus. Look out to the city.  
What do you see?

Caiaphus crosses. He stares over the city of Jerusalem.

PHARISEE ANNAS (CONT'D)

Once more, a Jewish occupied land.  
We know where the Romans stand with  
us, and us with them - but with one  
who can turn not only the gentiles  
against us, but that of our own in  
the house of Juda? We'd be doing  
the work of our enemies for them.  
The Jewish people, the House of  
Israel, House of Judah, the twelve  
tribes, you, me - all would cease  
to exist. Wouldn't we? And, over  
what? The clever tricks of a  
magician?

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

The healed proclaim it without  
hesitation. I've seen it in their  
eyes, their voices - the joy of it.

PHARISEE ANNAS

Jesus was an enemy from within,  
rightly judged, rightly disposed  
of.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

Yet Pilate washed his own hands of  
it.

PHARISEE ANNAS

Rest your mind, Caiaphus. The  
boiling water will simmer and the  
simmering water will cool. Our  
people will have back their faith,  
and our occupiers will have back  
their law and order.

EXT. ROMAN HILLSIDE - DUSK

Dark, heavy rain.

Two of the crucified, Dismas and Gestas, are carted toward  
the edge of a small, vertical slope by two GOLGOTHA  
CARETAKERS (70's).

Below, dirty, rain-soaked lowly CHILDREN gawk at mangy, thin  
and awaiting scavenger dogs who circle the pit - throwing  
rocks, pointing, laughing.

EXT. ROMAN CHECKPOINT - DUSK

Caretakers approach ROMAN SOLDIER RASMUS (30's) and the  
checkpoint.

GOLGOTHA CARETAKER # 1  
The crosses have been cleared,  
nails pulled. The third one is  
behind us coming down the hill.

Flies buzz about. Soldiers cover their noses. Rasmus signals  
the PAYMASTER (60's).

ROMAN SOLDIER RASMUS  
Pay 'em.

GOLGOTHA CARETAKER # 2  
Didrachema, preferred if possible.

EXT. VERTICAL SLOPE - DAY

Above - the death carts are tilted. The two crucified and  
convicted criminals are spilled forward.

Dismas and Gestas tumble lifelessly onto one-another down the  
slope. The famished, frothing animals begin the circling,  
eventual tearing and ripping.

Appearing is the Demon Boy - deadly serious. He paces -  
awaiting in delight to defile the body of Jesus.

EXT. ROMAN HILLSIDE CHECKPOINT - DAY

Mary, Joseph of Arimathea, Magdalene and Mary of Clopas cart  
the body of Jesus toward the Roman checkpoint.

The children below circle the pit and gather more rocks.

Joseph puts forward a scroll and seal from Pontius Pilate to  
the Roman Soldier.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA  
We've been given permission from  
Prefect Pilate to prepare the body  
for burial.

ROMAN SOLDIER RASMUS  
Pay them.

The Paymaster extends 10 silver shekels in front of Mary.

MARY  
No. No...

The soldier waves him through.

ROMAN SOLDIER RASMUS  
Pass...

EXT. HILLSIDE PATH - DAY

Mary and the procession push by. She looks down to see...

Among the children, the Demon Boy looking up to her with rock in hand and rage in his eyes.

INT. TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA - LATER - NIGHT

The body of Jesus, lies lacerated, bloodied and bitterly torn apart before Mary, Magdalene, Apostle John, Joseph of Arimathea and PHARISEE NICODEMUS (50's)

Mary, stricken and exhausted, prepares the soaking linens, water, and dish.

Nicodemus sits with Apostle John, and Joseph of Arimathea in the corner of the tomb - they read quietly from the Torah.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba.  
B'alma di v'ra chirutei...

MARY  
They weren't even ashamed to spit  
on him.

Mary begins sponging clean the wounds of her son with water and towels, gently wiping his feet and legs.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Yeshua ben Yosef". As a boy - he  
was always by my side.

FLASH SCENE

INT. JOSEPH'S WORKSHOP - YEARS EARLIER - DAY

Standing on a bench, a SIX YEAR-OLD JESUS fastens the legs of a small stool (however rough) under the watchful eye and supervision of foster-father, JOSEPH (50'S).

MARY (V.O.)  
They'd both leave in the morning,  
come home at night. He'd make  
stools in Joseph's shop.

Six year-old Jesus measures, cuts and assembles.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA - NIGHT

Mary Magdalen and Mary of Clopas rinse sponges now covered in red blood in the small pan.



MARY (CONT'D)  
The more he made, the more  
comfortable he thought I'd be when  
working in the fields.

FLASH SCENE

EXT. FIELDS - YEARS EARLIER - DAY

Mary, bent at the waist, works tirelessly alongside friends  
of the Temple in the barley meadow.

MARY (V.O.)  
When the season came, he'd bring  
them to harvest.

Young Jesus arrives with Joseph along with a mule and cart,  
loaded with fashioned-together wooden, three-legged, work-  
stools.

MARY (V.O.) (CON'T)  
So, we could all stay, sit and work  
even deeper into the night, filling  
the Temple stocks.

Young Jesus, rushes forward passing out the resting-stools to  
Mary and the field workers giving rest from the weight of  
their toil.

JOSEPH  
Caesar's one-man brigade has  
arrived.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA - NIGHT

Wet, clean cloths are brought to the face and brow of Jesus  
by the trembling hands of his mother.

MARY (CONT'D)  
And, when the nights were  
unbearable, we'd move to the  
rooftop to sleep in the fresh air,  
away from the smell of the  
animals...

FLASH SCENE

EXT. ROOF TOP - YEARS EARLIER - NIGHT

Mary, Joseph and Jesus lie on the roof in the sweltering  
Jerusalem evening-heat along with their neighbors on either  
side.

EIGHT YEAR-OLD JESUS, under a sea of stars holds all captivated by his nighttime tales.

MARY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He'd point to the stars, and would  
tell us stories to help us all  
close our eyes.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA - NIGHT

Magdalen, and Mary of Clopas unfurl the linen cerecloth.

MARY (CONT'D)  
A boy, never letting on...

Mary wraps her son with the linen and spices. The last bit of the face, mouth and closed eyes of Jesus.

MARY (CONT'D)  
He was moving into his time of  
hardship.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
Yit'gadal v'yit'kadash sh'mei raba,  
b'al'ma di v'ra khir'utei. (May His  
great name grow exalted and  
sanctified in a world as he  
created, as he willed).

Mary kisses her son, and holds her cheek, with closed eyes, close to his.

MARY  
How are you among the condemned? My  
sweet son, taken from me.

EXT. GOLGOTHA HILLTOP - LATER - 3 AM - NIGHT

Sporadic lightening-strikes blister distant, darkened skies - rain pours.

The eleven remaining Apostles, forlorn, scatter about carrying dimly lit torches.

APOSTLE PHILIP  
He hung here for three hours  
between the two convicted thieves.

APOSTLE THOMAS (30's) approaches the middle Imissa Crux (cross) and runs his hands over the stains of blood on its beams.

APOSTLE THOMAS

Jesus...

A wooden placard lies on the ground next to the base of the heavy beam. Thomas extends his faint light of the torch.

We see a small piece of wood - on it, an inscription,

APOSTLE THOMAS (CONT'D)

"Iesus Nazarenus rex Iudaeorum"  
(Jesus of Nazareth, King of the  
Jews).

Other Apostles circle Thomas, faintly see its inscription.

APOSTLE PETER

I denied him three times, and  
walked away from him at the  
garrison.

APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW

Each of us scattered like  
frightened lambs.

APOSTLE PHILIP

Yes, to be crucified if we too were  
recognized.

APOSTLE SIMON

Peace. Peace to you, Philip. Peace,  
peace be to all of us.

EXT. LOWER GOLGOTHA SLOPE - NIGHT

Down the grade, two dark figures approach, each carrying  
small lighted torches.

APOSTLE PETER

Down the hill. Look. We've been  
followed.

APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW

Pilate's men?

APOSTLE MATTHEW

Or, Temple Scribes?

APOSTLE ANDREW

Who are you?! Speak your names!

Apostle John and Mary Magdalene come into view.

APOSTLE JOHN (O.C.)

Brothers! Brothers?

APOSTLE PETER  
It's John. John?!

APOSTLE JOHN  
Yes. Myself and Mary Magdalen.

John and Magdalen, rain-soaked, approach with dimming torches.

APOSTLE JOHN (CONT'D)  
Peace unto you all, friends. You're all safe. We thought we would find you here.

APOSTLE THOMAS  
The streets are filled with the Temple police. They're looking for us everywhere.

APOSTLE JOHN  
We were stopped two times by Roman guards for questioning.

APOSTLE PETER  
Mary Magdalen. You too were here today?

MARY MAGDELEN  
Yes.

APOSTLE SIMON  
Amen, to you Mary. Amen. Braver than me I say to you.

APOSTLE MATTHEW  
Speak to us John of the Master. Did he call for us?

APOSTLE JOHN  
He called out only to his mother, and to his father. He spoke to me of caring for Mary. He suffered. Took their commands willingly.

MARY MAGDELEN  
On their orders, he stretched out his arms without hesitation. To the very end.

Silence. The Apostles, speechless.

APOSTLE JAMES THE LESS  
And his body?

MARY MAGDELEN

Joseph of Arimathea secured  
permission from Pilate to bring  
Jesus to his own tomb. It was  
granted.

APOSTLE JOHN

We brought him there.

APOSTLE PETER

And, Mary?

APOSTLE JOHN

Inconsolable. Terrorized. Haunted.  
Exhausted. She witnessed every  
lashing, suffered with him as much -  
held steadfast when the nails were  
driven in and when he was lifted  
up.

APOSTLE ANDREW

Where is she now?

MARY MAGDELEN

In a safe-house being tended to by  
select friends from the temple.

APOSTLE JOHN

And, Judas? The guide to those who  
took, Jesus?

APOSTLE PHILIP

Hanging by his neck from a tree  
outside the gates. Silver,  
scattered below his feet.

The rain continues to drive.

APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER

What now? Who are we without him?  
If they did not spare Jesus, how  
will they spare us?

Mary Magdalen steps forward.

MARY MAGDELEN

Friends. Don't grieve - for his  
grace will be entirely with you,  
will protect you. All of our minds  
are clear, we know what to do.

## APOSTLE PETER

Although we deserve nothing of it,  
 Mary Magdalen, you gave your  
 presence to him, and now your  
 comfort to us in our darkest hours.

## APOSTLE JOHN

Let's go back to our homes. Speak  
 to him in our hearts. Begin the  
 work he's asked of us. And, wait  
 for him to come back to us again.

Torch-fires weakly flicker beneath the crosses above.

## MARY MAGDELEN

And, we care for his mother who  
 needs all of us now more than ever -  
 the one among us who is the most  
 grieved.

## APOSTLES

Amen.

INT. SAFE HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT

In the deepest of sleeps, Mary lies on a small but  
 comfortable bed of quilted cushions.

From her innermost sorrows, red tears flow from suffering  
 dreams.

EXT. TEMPLE GROUNDS - 2 B.C. - DAY

Thirty Eight Years Earlier.

Light and wispy clouds pass by the inviting Israeli sun and  
 sky above.

Mary (12), enlivened, along with a dozen other kids her age,  
 have divided themselves up in two opposing teams - they throw  
 about a cloth-like ball filled with seeds, ride piggy back  
 and knock their opponents off-balance forwarding their seed-  
 ball to their goal.

Mary catches the ball, jumps onto her teammate's back and  
 together make a full sprint toward the goal.

## MARY

GO!

Her opponents follow. Mary and carrier zig-zag across the  
 field darting away from their converging opponents.

## YOUNG MARY

Run!! Run!!

Mary and her carrier cross the goal ahead of the others and the loud cheering of her teammates.

EXT. TEMPLE ENTRANCE - DAY

A female TEMPLE GUARDIAN (40's) steps out from the courtyard steps.

TEMPLE GUARDIAN

Mary?

Mary looks up to the Temple entrance - tosses the seed ball to the others.

TEMPLE GUARDIAN (CONT'D)

It's time.

Young Mary approaches best friend RIVKA (10). They share a stolen moment for their final good-byes.

RIVKA

Will I see you again?

YOUNG MARY

I think I'll be moving in with his family. That's what the guardian said.

RIVKA

Do you know who he is?

YOUNG MARY

No. They haven't told me.

RIVKA

Maybe it won't be too far.

YOUNG MARY

Maybe.

TEMPLE GUARDIAN (O.S.)

Mary?!

YOUNG MARY

I have to go. Bye, Rivka.

Young Mary steps away toward the Temple - turns back and waves to her friends for the last time.

RIVKA

Bye, Mary.

INT. SADDUCEES HIGH PRIEST TEMPLE CHAMBER - 2 B.C. - DAY

TEMPLE HIGH PRIESTS, HILLIEL (60's), KAMITH (50's), BOETHUS (65), PHIABI (60) and HANNAS (40) consider the matter of Mary's age at the Temple.

HIGH PRIEST KAMITH (CONT'D)

We have our list of established sons and temple families where the bloodline would never be in question.

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL

For some reason I'm still hesitant. The day she was presented by Joachim and Anne seems like just yesterday. She understands Greek and Latin. Thirsts for the teachings of the faith. Her presence, this child, somehow has been ordained to the very yolk of God himself. And, now for us to conscript her over to the living world, that of marriage?

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI

Then how do we find what is suitable for her and suitable by our traditions?

HIGH PRIEST HANNAS

Maybe the answer is found in another canon - not marriage, but betrothal.

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI

Betrothal?

HIGH PRIEST HANNAS

A contract which provides for the law, and one that would keep her "modesty" intact?

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL

And, the Mishna? It does appropriate "relations".

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI

Then, we must ask, "What man would surrender to what we would ask of him?"



HIGH PRIEST HILIEL  
A man of the Temple, a good man,  
and one beyond her years, elderly,  
virtuous where his purpose would  
never be in question - an eager  
guardian of Mary's modesty.

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI  
Who, Hiliel? Who do you see?

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL  
Joseph the Carpenter.

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI  
Joseph?

HIGH PRIEST HANNAS  
A widower with his own children.  
Mary would be more like a daughter  
to him.

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI  
And, a sister to the others.

HIGH PRIEST HANNAS  
And, possibly a reasonable dowry  
from the temple?

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL  
Yes. On behalf of Mary, let us be  
delighted that we have found, in  
our laws, the ways to both protect,  
and, to preserve.

INT. TEMPLE COURT OF WOMEN ROOM - DAY

Young Mary is dressed and adorned in golden weaves and  
tassels of status by the elder women of the Temple.

TEMPLE ATTENDEE  
Your day has come, Mary. You have  
found favor with the high priests.

INT. COURT OF WOMEN TEMPLE HALL CORRIDOR - DAY

Pageantry is in full bloom.

At the center of a glorious procession, Young Mary is led  
down the corridor by Temple Attendees.

EXT. NICANOR GATE - DAY

Through the portal and past the hall of Israelites, Young  
Mary continues to walk toward the main exterior altar.

YOUNG MARY  
Who will be my husband? Have you  
heard?

ATTENDEE # 1  
Everything will be all right. God  
is with you.

She bows to the towering altar.

Mary circles the altar to see the large steps which leads to  
the main Temple porch, and to the sacred hall of the *Holy of  
Holies*.

Mary, turns to those around her. Friends, Temple associates  
and guides signal back their affections.

YOUNG MARY  
Please keep me in your prayers.

Mary turns and ascends the steps of the Holy of Holies - one  
last turn back - she enters.

YOUNG MARY (CONT'D)  
Bountiful Lord, be with me.

INT. HOLY OF HOLIES - DAY

Wearing the golden colorful weave of clothes along with the  
holy, high-rank of golden tassels, Mary bows her head.

HIGH PRIEST PHIABI  
Mary. Do you come of your free  
will?

YOUNG MARY  
Yes. I submit myself freely.

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL  
God has had his hand in your future  
today, where both law, and its  
spirit have met.

Before her, the High Sadducees priests. Hiliel signals for  
Mary to enter and kneel.

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL (CONT'D)  
Your day has come, young one.

Hiliel burns incense and prays the ancient prayer of the  
"Shemoneh Esrie."

Mary bows her head. The East of her youth is passing, the  
West of her future - now before her.

HIGH PRIEST HILIEL (CONT'D)  
 Baruch atah Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu, Vei-  
 lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu, (If it is Thy  
 will, God our Lord, quickly send us  
 from heaven a complete healing).

Broken pieces of light begin to gently shower and dance about  
 Mary's head and shoulders filling the room, engulfed in  
 heavenly light.

MARY  
 A healing of our soul, a healing of  
 our body.

EXT. MOUNT GAREB - 33 A.D. - 5 AM - DAY (END OF FLASHBACKS)

Mary Magdalene, JOANNA (50), 4th MARY (45) MOTHER OF JAMES  
 (The Less) carry spices and fresh burial linens.

MARY MAGDELENE  
 Hurry. If we get stopped, say  
 little. We've been given  
 authority...

EXT. TOMB OF JESUS - 33 A.D. - 5 AM - DAY

The women arrive to the tomb of Jesus and see it open.

MARY MOTHER OF JAMES  
 The rock is pushed aside.

A MAN (Jesus) wearing a head-covering sits casually on a  
 hillside rock above three women looking down below.

The women approach the open tomb - empty.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 No...

INT. TOMB OF JESUS - 5 AM - DAY

Magdelen and the others enter. They see only the discarded  
 and folded shroud lying on the slab of slate.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 He's gone. Thieves. They've taken  
 his body.

MARY MOTHER OF JAMES  
 Or, the Pharisees.

JOANNA  
 But the guards were posted here all  
 night.

EXT. TOMB OF JESUS - 5 AM - DAY

Mary Magdalen, distraught, steps outside of the tomb as the others remain inside. She sees the Roman guards - asleep.

As she approaches them...

JESUS (O.C.)  
Why do you look for the living  
among the dead?

Magdalen turns to see Jesus standing above the tomb wearing a covered hood.

Jesus removes his hood revealing himself.

MARY MAGDELEN  
Jesus.

JESUS  
Peace be with you, Mary Magdalen.

Jesus climbs down the rock - warm, calm, like every day. Mary Magdalen reaches for his hands, touching, caressing - confirming.

MARY MAGDELEN  
You're here...

JESUS  
Don't be afraid.

MARY MAGDELEN  
Jesus, my Lord.

JESUS  
I say unto you, the curse of the  
first mother has been undone. Once  
removed by the Tree of Knowledge,  
Eden is now restored by the Tree of  
Life.

MARY MAGDELEN  
Yes, Jesus.

JESUS  
Let the dead bury their dead. Walk  
with me.

EXT. SAFE HOUSE - GA'ATON RIVER - EARLY MORNING - DAY

The isolated home is attended to by two women attendees, YAFFA and VERED (40's) who sweep and fill baskets of fruit.

The Ga'aton River peacefully streams by.

YAFFA

It's been three days. She's been  
asleep since Friday - hasn't eaten.

VERED

Shall we wake her?

INT. SAFE HOME - ROOM - DAY

Mary, mother of the Christ, lies in a deep sleep on a body-length, bed-like base of woven cushions.

Red tears continue to stream and pool from the dreams of her son's crucible.

MARY

Je... sus...

Broken, bits of inviting, showering rays of light pierce and volley about in the small clay room.

A gentle hand reaches in towards Mary's fretting brow, one which contains an 1/2 inch wound from a piercing nail.

Tender fingers reach and wipe away Mary's red streaming tears.

JESUS

Mother... Mother?

Between worlds of dreaming and awakening, Mary opens her eyes to see her son - *Jesus*.

MARY

Jesus...

Thunderstruck, tears of sorrow now turn into clear, blue tears of astonishment, ecstasy and astonishing relief.

JESUS

Fear not. All glory of the daughter  
of the king is within. Be not  
afraid.

EXT. GA'ATON RIVER - LATER - DAY

Jesus and Mary share unleavened bread as the river easily flows by - peace.

JESUS

I've sent Mary Magdalen to speak to  
Peter and the others.

MARY

The pharisees and their scribes -  
were looking for them. Writing down  
names of those who spoke of you.

JESUS

Blessed are those names, for I too  
have written them down.

MARY

And, all abandoned you but for  
John.

JESUS

No, mother. Their fear kept them  
hidden - for their work is now to  
be done.

Mary turns to face him - falls quiet.

MARY

Your first steps, as a child, I  
steadied them and reached for you.  
Your last, as a man, broken and  
taken by Pilate.

JESUS

And for all of those steps, you  
stayed with me mother, while the  
second covenant was made.

MARY

Both of us "conspirators" in the  
father's works.

JESUS

Hidden in Nazareth, away from  
Lucifer and concealing the  
operations of our souls.

MARY

For this moment? The torment on  
Golgotha?

JESUS

Yes.

MARY

I selfishly revealed you at Canaan.

JESUS

By the first miracle, my promise  
was declared. The curse of Eden was  
met by your request. It was there,  
you announced me to the world.

MARY

And, by it, having to watch you  
suffer.

JESUS

And, by one's suffering, the human  
heart is born. As I sit with you  
this very moment, the fear from the  
hill has now been rewritten.

MARY

On your shoulders and on your body.

JESUS

Yes. And, amen, I say unto you  
Mother Mary, paradise is yours if  
you say it be so.

MARY

With you?

JESUS

Yes. If you desire. But soon, in  
you, will be deposited the  
treasures of our grace and on your  
heart, the tablet shall be written  
and engraved our holy law. Through  
the example of the most faithful,  
the one who is unblemished by the  
world's deceit. You, mother, if  
willing, will be the Protector of  
my church, and my words, and my  
works. You will be given this power  
if you say it be so. For whoever  
obtains your intercession shall  
through myself, and the father,  
secure for himself - eternal life.

INT. 2ND SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

Ten Apostles (John absent - Judas gone) gather together and  
listen to the accounts of Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalen holds the folded shroud carefully in her arms -  
revealing the face of Jesus left inside its linens.

MARY MAGDELENA

His face, left for us, a mirror of  
his words.

Apostles pace. Terror and fear of being hunted overtake the  
room.

APOSTLE THOMAS

Let me see that.

Thomas reaches for the cerecloth burial linens and inspects the shroud of Eden (Turin).

APOSTLE THOMAS (CONT'D)  
 Body gone? Now a shroud? It's a  
 Pharisees' trick to lure us out  
 into the open. To reveal ourselves -  
 our position.

APOSTLE PHILIP  
 Mary Magdalen wouldn't lie to us,  
 Thomas.

The bait of fear overtakes Thomas and the others.

APOSTLE THOMAS  
 He's not coming back, Philip! Do  
 any of you actually believe that?  
 What have your imaginations done to  
 you? He's been crucified!!

APOSTLE ANDREW  
 Maybe we should leave Jerusalem  
 tonight? Travel in teams of two,  
 meet up in Galilee, or even further  
 north.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 The guards, or thieves, didn't roll  
 back the rock of the tomb, Thomas.

APOSTLE MATTHEW  
 You don't know that, Mary Magdalen!

APOSTLE THOMAS  
 We didn't see it! This linen could  
 have come from anywhere! Do we all  
 wish to be the next offerings of  
 Jerusalem's slaughtered?

APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW  
 Why would he reveal himself to a  
 woman first and not his Apostles?  
 And what did he say to you, Mary  
 Magdalen?

APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER  
 Bartholomew? Don't speak to her  
 that way. She knew the master's  
 heart, he knew hers.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 He said, "Why do I look for the  
 living among the dead?" That "the  
 curse of the first mother has been  
 undone".

(MORE)



MARY MAGDELEN (CONT'D)

"Once removed by the Tree of Knowledge, Eden is now restored by the Tree of Life".

A knock on the door is heard. The room falls silent.

APOSTLE PETER

We're all accounted for but for John. He's with Mary. No one knows we're here.

Another knock - silence in the room.

APOSTLE PETER (CONT'D)

Quiet, everyone.

Apostle Peter goes to the door, and pulls back the view hatch. He looks to see a man with his head down and covered.

APOSTLE PETER (CONT'D)

John?

The man says nothing.

APOSTLE PETER (CONT'D)

It's a man with his head cloaked.

APOSTLE MATTHEW

A spy sent from the temple?

Apostle Peter opens the door.

APOSTLE PETER

Yes? What is it?

The man raises his head. It is Jesus.

JESUS

Peace be with you, Peter. May I come in?

Astonished, Peter opens the door and Jesus steps into the room. Peter closes the door. Jesus removes the cloak from over his head.

JESUS (CONT'D)

My friends.

APOSTLES

Jesus... Master...

Some break to their knees, others in tears. Others reach for his garment, and tremble.

JESUS  
 Peace be to all of you. Fear not.  
 Don't be afraid. I'm in your midst  
 as I said I would be again.

A second knock on the door is heard.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
 Open it, Peter. Be assured of what  
 I say. Open it.

Peter opens the door. Entering are - Apostle John, Mother Mary along with Mary of Clopas carrying arms of challah bread and wine.

APOSTLES  
 Mary, John... You're unharmed.

APOSTLE JOHN  
 My Lord. Friends, yes, yes, we are.  
 Brothers. The streets are fevered  
 as to our whereabouts. I trust you  
 too are all safe.

All eager to see and feel, to touch and to be with one-another once more.

APOSTLE MATTHEW  
 Mary. The mother of the Lord is  
 with us. Make a place for her, next  
 to our, Lord.

APOSTLES  
 Yes, Yes.

JESUS  
 Thomas.

APOSTLE THOMAS  
 Jesus...

JESUS  
 Sit with me.

Magdalene and Joanna prepare the bread and wine.

The small congregation makes room for themselves, finding cushions, reaching and exchanging pillows to sit and handing broken, shared bread to one-another.

Jesus sits and looks onto his Apostles. Wounds on hands and feet - on display. The rooms settles - grows quiet.

## APOSTLE MATTHEW

Speak to us master, of what we  
should know in our hearts.

The gathering falls quiet.

## JESUS

Before Abraham was, I AM. As I have  
raised Lazarus, I have raised  
myself. "Destroy this temple, and I  
shall raise it up in three days".  
Do you remember?

## ASPOSTLES

Yes, master...

## JESUS

I am the living temple, and each of  
you are my cornerstones. Thomas?

## APOSTLE THOMAS

Yes, master.

## JESUS

Give me your hand. Don't be afraid.  
Give me your hand. Open your  
fingers.

Thomas does so. Jesus opens his cloak.

## JESUS (CONT'D)

"Unless I see the nail marks in his  
hands, and put my finger in his  
side, I will not believe".

Jesus guides Thomas's hand to the wounds in his chest.

## JESUS (CONT'D)

I've heard your cries.

Thomas's fingers are led by Jesus over the stabs of thorns in  
his head.

## JESUS (CONT'D)

From the crown of woven thorns.

Jesus returns Thomas's hand to him.

## APOSTLE THOMAS

Forgive me master, for I have  
doubted your words, I was afraid,  
afraid you wouldn't come back. I  
was afraid - to hope.

Jesus kisses Thomas on the top of the head.

JESUS

Through you, Thomas, the world now  
has seen. Blessed is your doubt, so  
that the world will have none.

APOSTLE THOMAS

My Lord, my God.

Mary and Mary Magdalen begin serving bread and wine.

JESUS

I say unto you, because you all  
have seen me, you believed. But  
blessed too are those who have not  
seen and yet still believe.

EXT. JOSEPH'S FAMILY WOOD SHOP - DAY

Covered both in hooded tunics, Jesus and Mary approach  
Joseph's workshop. It's burnt and nearly razed to the ground.

INT. JOSEPH'S FAMILY WORKSHOP - DAY

Jesus - Mary, work their way inside.

MARY

They burned it when Pilate's decree  
was read.

Burnt beams, blazed walls - carpenter's tools - destroyed  
chisels, bow drills, flared winnowing forks.

MARY (CONT'D)

Nicodemus said the council ordered  
its destruction as part of your  
capital penalty.

JESUS

Everything about me, wiped from the  
earth? Who gave this order?

Jesus picks up tools which feel familiar.

MARY

The Pharisees. The scribes have  
been charged to collect all that  
has been written about you and  
built - and, burn it.

Jesus walks about the ruins.

JESUS

First there was the law. Now, the  
fulfillment of it.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

The closed fist to the open hand -  
yet, from the same arm. Do you  
understand, Mother?

MARY

Yes.

Jesus rubs black soot between his finger and thumb.

JESUS

Into your care, my authority. And,  
into my church, a mother's  
protection.

EXT. JERUSALEM BACK ALLEYWAY - FOLLOWING DAYS - DAY

Mary leads Jesus up the parallel narrow street from the Via  
Dolorosa.

MARY

We were trying to get to the  
garrison before sun up but the  
crowds were swollen. John led us up  
this back way.

Both approach the confederate demon cantina.

MARY (CONT'D)

It was here. I could feel a hole in  
the street - an absence of life.  
This is the place.

INT. CANTINA ALLEY BROTHEL - DAY

Jesus and Mary step inside the alley-brothel. The one-time  
satellite of hell - now empty, quiet.

MARY

They were celebrating your  
crucifixion but were also unaware  
of what it meant.

Jesus peruses the vacuous space - its presence of evil.

JESUS

They know me now as they too know  
you, mother - as their enemy.

MARY

They cowered at your cross but I  
commanded they stay and witness  
what they had done. Like fleas they  
scattered.

From his bag, Jesus pulls out a small mallet and three nails from the razed workshop.

JESUS  
And, like John in the Jordan, you  
announced my purpose to the Father  
of Lies.

Jesus approaches a large wooden table.

He then takes a chisel and scratches in the wood a rough outline of - The Imissa Crux - the Holy Cross.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
In my name, they shall be tormented  
by the inextinguishable fire.

INT. PHARISEES CHAMBER - DAY

Struggling under the Jewish/Gentile question, the PHARISEES openly debate the geopolitical intricacies of Jewish/Gentile reconciliation.

Jesus and Mary sit unnoticed in the shadows - listening.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
We sit on top of a Gentile  
population who wait for the  
smallest of gestures from our  
leadership. Our temple, our ways,  
our people, our faith - all are  
attractive to them. We must find a  
way to reconcile the lost tribes.

PHARISEE YEHONATAN  
Endorse the crucified to win favor  
with our distant cousins, the  
gentiles?

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
He's spoken to them. They're  
empathetic towards his visible  
works.

PHARISEE MORDECHAI  
We would then be overturning  
Pilate's decree. What would he make  
of us then? And, of our bloodlines?  
Nicodemus?

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
We can keep to our bloodlines, or  
lose a willing, growing people and  
lose a moment in time when it may  
all be possible.

(MORE)

## PHARISEE NICODEMUS (CONT'D)

We can teach them, we can feed them  
and we too can keep pure the House  
of Juda. Bring them in!

## PHARISEE MODECHAI

Codify the condemned in our law as  
a political matter? Meaning we line  
the men up and draw down their  
tunics? Circumcise the aged as new  
members of the faithful?

## PHARISEE YAIR

It is the law of Moses, Nicodemus.

## PHARISEE MORDECHAI

Our Maccabees' fathers would know  
it only as blasphemy. They would  
take to us with fury as they did  
toward the Seleucid king.

INT. HOLY OF THE HOLIES - DAY

Pharisee Nicodemus enters. He bows to the High Priests.

## PHARISEE NICODEMUS

No agreement as of yet.

Nicodemus turns and exits. The High Priests bow their heads  
and quietly pray.

Unseen, Jesus, and Mary circle the holy men.

## JESUS

They are the chosen and Moses will  
keep them.

The High Holy Priests begin to pray.

## HIGH PRIESTS

Elohai neshama shenatata bi t'horah  
hi.

Jesus and Mary join them.

## JESUS / MARY

Ata b'ratah, ata y'tzartah, ata  
n'fachtah bi.

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - DAY

Thirty to forty MEN (30's - 50's) - Gentiles and Jews engage  
in a vigorous debate of heritage, lineage and faith.

Fully covered, Jesus and Mary circle and finally sit within  
earshot - continue their spiritual reconnaissance.

JEW # 1

Forever the Gentiles in the house  
of Israel are to pay the cost for  
Solomon's idolatry. It is written!

GENTILE # 2 (CONT'D)

Never-ending curses. Fruit of the  
idolator's tree? You use it on us  
like an ax!

JEW # 2

The house of Juda has no such  
stain. Juda's house is clean.

JEW # 1

God warned Israel of being led  
astray by outside nations. The  
house of Juda protected itself from  
Solomon's infidelities. We are  
God's faithful bride.

The crowd falls silent, then...

JESUS (O.C.)

How would God remarry his bride if  
he had learned she'd been  
unfaithful?

The crowd turns to see a man who's head is covered.

JEW # 2

As its author, he would be the  
upholder of it. Author and judge.  
God cannot divide himself!

JESUS

Yet, if he kept the first covenant,  
undivided, and made a second?

Jesus stands and reaches for a man's walking stick. A larger  
crowd gathers.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Here, in my own hand - one stick.

He then reaches once more for a second stick from a Gentile  
and a third from a Jew.

JESUS (CONT'D)

In my right, a second from the  
Gentile tribes, and, in my left, a  
third from the tribes of Juda.

Jesus holds the three sticks like a tree with its branches  
out to either side.



JESUS (CONT'D)

What do you see?

GENTILE # 1

A tree with two branches.

JEW # 1

What do we make of it?

JESUS

Neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave, nor master. One tree, one God, one people. A second covenant.

JEW # 2

A second?

JESUS

Amen, the once-broken bride is now redeemed and her groom has come back for her.

JEW # 2

And, of God's chosen? Those who have been, "unstained?"

JESUS

Grace shall keep them. Yeshua has returned only for the lost sheep of Israel.

EXT. MASADA FORTRESS - DAY

Jesus walks with his Apostles. They arrive to the edge of the fortress drop. A hot, dry wind blows.

Before them, the western-end of the Judean desert overlooking the Dead Sea - all of Jewish providence lies before them.

APOSTLE SIMON

Lord? Will you now restore what we have lost in our exile?

JESUS

We've turned in grace to the Gentiles - now we call out of them a people unto the Father's name. They are the lost sheep I seek.

APOSTLE ANDREW

But when Lord will Israel be restored?

JESUS

Moses has saved the tribes, they will keep. It's not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

EXT. SEA OF GALILEE - DUSK

Jesus and Mary, Son and Mother sense the end of their time together. Fishermen's boats dot the waters before them.

MARY

When you stood before the council, I followed you in to stand beside you, but they wouldn't allow it. I saw and heard the judgments in the faces of every person as they passed me...

JESUS

As you have sought the truth, my ministry now seeks you.

She turns to him.

MARY

But, Jesus, I'm afraid - afraid of not having you near me. The cup you asked the father to remove is now before me. And, now it's your mother who is asking for it to be taken away. How could I have the strength to carry this second troubled cup?

JESUS

By way of your incorruptibility. That will continue to show the world the way to the father and toward his friendship. How a life can be led, without compromise, without surrender, without the need for conquest.

MARY

What do you ask of me?

JESUS

To live your life, and to tell  
them, assuredly, as the *Empress of*  
*Heaven*, they all are, the coheirs  
of grace.

INT. CENACLE - DAYS LATER - NIGHT

Even amounts of disciples and friends gather, sit and stand  
around the table - 120 in all focused on Jesus - peaceful,  
providing, calm.

Mother Mary directly to the right of Jesus.

JESUS

My sweetest children, I am about to  
ascend to my father. I leave with  
you, my mother, Mary, as your  
Protectress, Consoler and Advocate.

Jesus turns to Mary who sits to his right.

JESUS (CONT'D)

To my father's daughter, to you,  
the father entrusts the church -  
and, to the people he redeemed.

Jesus meets the eyes of those who sit with him and across  
from him.

JESUS (CONT'D)

And, just as I have told you, he  
who sees me, sees my father. So,  
now I tell you, he who knows my  
mother, knows me, and, he who  
honors her, honors me. In her shall  
be deposited the treasures of our  
grace and mysteries of the  
salvation for mankind. She is the  
perfect work of the father's hands.  
What she asks of us, will be  
granted. She is the advocate for  
sinners, the mother of the world,  
and its holy hope. Peter?

APOSTLE PETER

Yes, Lord?

JESUS

You shall be the supreme head, the  
Vicar of the church holding both  
spiritual and worldly authority.  
All of you shall obey him as the  
chief high-priest. John?

APOSTLE JOHN

Yes, master.

JESUS

You know to hold steadfast as the son of the mother. Her protector, companion, provider, advocate, and friend.

APOSTLE JOHN

Yes, master.

Making the breadth of *The Passion* personal for each. Jesus holds bread up before him.

JESUS

Share your bread with one another and eat of my flesh with me. And, drink of my blood. Do so in remembrance of me.

120 of the gathering, eat and sip of the wine.

JESUS (CONT'D)

And pray to the father as I have taught you, and as he has taught me. "Our father, who art in heaven.. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done...

EXT. CENACLE - NIGHT

Jesus steps out of the cenacle with Mary at his right side.

Both are tranquilly surrounded by the apostles and other friends and disciples who carry lighted torches.

JESUS

Friends, walk with me.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Kindled torches light the calm procession marching toward Mt. Olivet through the Jerusalem alleyways and streets.

Jesus and Mary walk hand in hand.

JESUS

You are the mother of the word - and a daughter of the Temple. By custom, your testimony will be received as untrustworthy.

Souls from both limbo and purgatory begin to quietly pour out from the surrounding alleyways - now free.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Teach them. Counsel them. Be  
patient with their questions.

EXT. FOOTHILL OF MT. OLIVET - NIGHT

The procession gathers, begins making its way uphill.

JESUS  
The curse of Eve, the first mother  
is over. Speak of these things to  
the son's and to the daughters of  
Abraham.

From that netherworld, the parents of Mary, JOACHIM and ANNE  
(80's) gather and walk on either side of Jesus and Mary.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Today they will be with me in  
paradise.

EXT. MT. OLIVET - NIGHT

The longline of lighted flame finds its course high up the  
meandering road.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Watching over you, waiting for you -  
as I will be.

EXT. MT. OLIVET - NIGHT

Jesus, Mary, Joachim and Anne step forward from the gathered  
mass and reach the open vista of Mt. Olivet.

JESUS  
Over the last 40 days I have showed  
you, that in this world I have  
lived again.

Three choirs form - one of Angels, another of Saints and a  
third of Apostles and the faithful.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
I've walked among you, have eaten  
again with you.

The moon and stars bloom under a clear Jerusalem night.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
We have continued healing and have  
ministered together.

Jesus turns to face his mother, Apostles, friends and  
resurrected.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You did not choose me. I chose you.

Mary prostrates herself at the feet of Jesus - begins weeping of her impending separation from him.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I do say unto you, go forth and  
bear fruit, fruit that will last.

The faithful follow suit, bend at their knees before the Christ.

JESUS (CONT'D)

My father will give you whatever  
you ask of him in my name.

Apostle John approaches and takes his rightful place next to Mary.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Preach of the mysteries - of the  
world's redemption. Wait for thy  
holy spirit.

Jesus steps to his mother who is praying before him.

JESUS (CONT'D)

If you forgive the sins of any,  
they are forgiven; If you retain  
their sins, they are retained.

Jesus joins his hands - throughout the assembled, peace and majesty.

JESUS (CONT'D)

May the spirit of my father be with  
you all.

A whirling empyreal light - the light of the holy spirit whirls about the congregation in dashes of warm air and brilliance.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Hold not sin or judgment against  
your enemies. Hold them not against  
yourselves.

In the gentlest of motions, Jesus is wafted toward the skies above amid sorrowful sighs who vent their affections.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Hold to heart their weaknesses, as  
they do hold yours.

Wind, light and dust flurry about. Ascension of Christ -  
ascension of souls.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Love thy neighbor as yourselves.  
For he who has done so has  
fulfilled the law.

From the empyreal heavens, we...

INT. HELL'S CENTACLE - NIGHT

Sexual gluttony abounds.

LUCIFER (40'S), dominant, mentally agile, focused, sits on  
his throne above his associate, demon-confederates, Alastor,  
Baphomet, Asmodeus, Astaroth, scores and scores of others.

LUCIFER  
Her... What a sloppy mercenary.

ALASTOR  
Nothing more than a child's trick.

LUCIFER  
More than that, Alastor. The gates  
of heaven have now been thrown  
open. Sulam Yaakov. And this woman,  
who laid dormant out of my reach in  
Nazareth - hidden.

Lucifer gets up - strolls among his kneeling fallen.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)  
God incarnate made manifest by a  
lowly Nazarene. He preserves me  
only to live in his absence -  
heaping insults from the mouth of  
this, "WOMAN."

Lucifer looks over his congregation - broken.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)  
The second sin is like wounding a  
dead body - asleep, at ease to its  
own ruin. What now is the use of my  
fury? Tell me, confederates, what  
should we do?

ALASTOR  
We can't injure him, but we can  
avenge ourselves in those whom he  
loves. Their nature is unchanged.

BAPHOMET

A new powerful doctrine written  
with the blood of the Christ... But  
as Alastor says Lucifer, human  
flesh remains the same.

LUCIFER

What do you see?

ASMODEUS

We hinder the fruit of the  
redemption.

LUCIFER

How?

ASTAROTH

We weaken the remembrance of his  
Passion.

BAPHOMET

Place on man's tongues those things  
of the natural world, and not that  
of the supernatural.

ASMODEUS

We fill the streets of those  
familiar god-like men, and subvert  
words like "love" with words of  
this world such as, "natural".

BAPHOMET

We invert everything the  
supernatural stands for...

LUCIFER

And, the woman?

BAPHOMET

What she will feel the most is when  
the followers of her son are  
attacked.

From the back of the demonic affiliated assembly, the  
familiar profile of a covered and hooded Christ.

LUCIFER

(in the distance)

We have the whole of Judaism,  
incensed toward the new church of  
the crucified.



ASMODEUS

We can turn them all against them.  
Pilate's men, we threaten those of  
lineage, those of broken blood we  
leverage, the tribes which are cut-  
off, dilute its promise, speak of  
grace as a mere fantasy... We can  
divide them all.

ALASTOR

And, direct them all to the woman  
who has given birth to the  
"Anointed" one.

Behind Jesus, we reveal a countless gathering of collected  
souls.

BAPHOMET

Because if so goes the mother, so  
go the children.

Jesus now gone - having left behind his Crown of Woven  
Thorns.

LUCIFER

And, if, so go the children, so,  
goes this "*Age of Grace*."

INT/EXT. APOSTLE JOHN'S HOUSE - MONTHS LATER - DAY

Front door opens - bright streaming sunshine.

Apostle John stands to see scores of women and their children  
standing in quiet vigil holding harvest baskets before him -  
waiting for Mary to appear.

Mary approaches the door.

APOSTLE JOHN

Looks like they're not going away.

EXT. OLIVE TREE GROVE - LATER - DAY

Mary, works vigorously alongside friend, Mary Magdalen. Young  
children and other attendees labor towards the Olive harvest.

MARY (CONT'D)

How are they treating you?

MARY MAGDELEN

They're adjusting. Especially  
Bartholomew. We've spoken. He's a  
good man.

MARY  
 Eve's curse is over. Our  
 traditional brothers have been  
 shaken a bit by it haven't they?

A FIELD FOREMAN (50's) calls out.

FIELD FOREMAN  
 Gather some shade, gather some  
 water.

Mary and Mary Magdalen find themselves sitting away from the  
 large scores of coworkers.

MARY  
 Why do they sit so far away from  
 us? Are they sick?

MARY MAGDELEN  
 No. Frightened to approach but all  
 are eager to speak with you.

MARY  
 Bring them near, they shouldn't be  
 frightened of me.

Mary Magdalen gathers a group of young mothers and their  
 children - curious, yet shy of the Mother Mary.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Do come closer, come near me. Don't  
 be afraid.

A young girl AHUVA (11), looks at her own mother for  
 assurance. Her mother nods in approval.

Ahuva steps out toward Mary.

AHUVA  
 We were told if we asked questions,  
 we could be punished.

MARY  
 Punished? Who has said that, child?

AHUVA  
 Father. Before we came out this  
 morning.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 The husbands and fathers told the  
 girls to be cautious. Calvary.

MARY  
 I see.

Mary looks to those surrounding mothers who share the sentiment.

MARY (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

AHUVA  
Ahuva.

MARY  
"Beloved".

AHUVA  
Yes.

MARY  
Are you afraid of me?

AHUVA  
I don't think so.

MARY  
What were you thinking before you began working in the field this morning? Before you saw me.

AHUVA  
Friends, work.

MARY  
I think of those things, too. All the time. New ones, old ones. I'm sure you have many friends.

AHUVA  
Were you the mother of the man the soldiers took to the hill?

MARY  
Yes, I was...

AHUVA  
You saw what happened?

MARY  
Yes.

Those workers standing on the fringe move closer to Mary.

MARY (CONT'D)  
It's all right. Come closer. Out of the sun. Listen to her questions. I want to answer them for all of you.

AHUVA

You must have been scared.

MARY

I was very scared. When he was away from me, it was my darkest moment. I just didn't know what to do to, so, I fought hard through the crowds to be there.

AHUVA

Why would you want to see him, hurt?

MARY

I, I didn't wish to see him that way but I wanted him to know I was there. Sharing his suffering so he wouldn't feel so abandoned. To make sure he saw me. To make sure he knew I loved him. I was as lost as a person could be, Ahuva.

AHUVA

I didn't think grown-ups got lost?

MARY

That's why we need our children, so they can keep finding us.

AHUVA

Are you sad?

Mary broadens the discussion with Ahuva to those mothers who sit and listen.

MARY

Of course. But, in me, he's never really gone. And, he's left behind in this world such treasures of necessary medicines for those things that can make us all frightened and sad. And, like you, Ahuva, he was brave. He stepped forward, just like you did.

Apostle John approaches the edge of the grove along with Pharisee Nicodemus and the other Apostles.

MARY (CONT'D)

Come closer.

Ahuva steps forward - Mary leans in closer to the young girl's ear.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 You are a daughter of Abraham and  
 you are loved.

EXT. 2ND OLIVE GROVE LOCATION - MINUTES LATER - DAY

Away from the friends and field workers, Mary sits with  
 Nicodemus and the Apostles.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 They won't consider his works  
 alongside Malachi?

PHARISEE NICODEMUS (CONT'D)  
 There's no appetite between the  
 other Pharisees or the High Holy  
 Priests. I reminded them of the  
 prophesy - proposed an invitation  
 to the Gentiles.

APOSTLE PETER  
 There are measures now in place to  
 monitor his followers. We don't  
 know who is watching us - weighing  
 our influence.

APOSTLE SIMON  
 It's the political balance between  
 Rome and the Temple they're ever  
 aware of... Not that of Malachi's  
 redeemer.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
 And ready to call on Leviticus if  
 need be.

The Apostles look to Mary for how to begin their ministries.

APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER  
 Mary, you were the first disciple.  
 On your heart, heaven's mysteries  
 have been written. Tell us, how do  
 we begin?

MARY  
 Let us speak privately.

EXT. OTHER GROVE LANES - DAY

Mary walks before the disciples, Mary Magdalen and Pharisee  
 Nicodemus.

MARY

This morning I awoke to women, children and families, holding vigil, waiting for me patiently, carrying baskets and ready to harvest the field here today. And, aren't we like them?

APOSTLE THOMAS

How so?

MARY

Eager to work, Thomas. Vigilant, with baskets either to receive or dispense. Their caring brought me forward this morning. Now, your caring brings you. My friends, the question of when to begin, comes with a warning. Canaan marked the day of his first steps toward the hill of skulls. And, so, today shall mark yours and my own.

APOSTLE PETER

Mary, speak to us of the mysteries so we may go forward in confidence.

Mary turns to face them.

MARY

Like the first twelve tribes, you now are the next twelve, including Mary Magdalene - the first one to witness the reestablishing of Eden's promise.

The men share a look - socially sensitive.

MARY (CONT'D)

As Jesus welcomed her, I welcome her, and all of you shall do so. Mathias, will be one of you, under scrutiny and after a vote. The message is this, "Blood has been shed willingly. He died, was buried, and rose again". This is our message. Heaven's invitation is reestablished for all. That is our message.

APOSTLE ANDREW

And, the Temple? Our position with the Pharisees?

MARY

We don't look to overcome the crucifixion, but stand to build the church upon it. We don't look to disregard the law, but to embrace it, but now with grace that's been provided. We are Jews. Always will be Jews. We are all descendants of David, the son of Abraham. We are not separate from our brothers at the Temple or even the gentiles in the courtyards.

APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER

If they think we're changing the customs Moses has delivered, our ministries will be short-lived.

MARY

The Temple is now inside of each of you. We hold to our oral traditions, and to the written word, and to those future things that shall be written.

APOSTLE ANDREW

Twelve, to light the world?

MARY

Twelve to "relight" the world. You've been given the power to heal the sick, to raise the dead, and to admonish sins by the holy spirit. Counsel, heal, and speak of your friend, my son, our Lord, the truth as he revealed it. Write what you have seen. But keep it hidden. Bring them to me and we will eat and drink in remembrance of him, as he has asked us to do. These are the first steps of the new world that have been entrusted to you - and, like Canaan, the first ones taken towards the trees of our own darkest hours.

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Apostle John, ever present, navigates his way leading Mary up the Via Dolorosa to the first fall of Jesus.

He steps back and away, providing Mary her privacy.

APOSTLE JOHN

I'll be nearby.

MARY  
Thank you, John.

John drifts down the street and keeps a watchful presence of her. Mary sits on the edge of the road of trials.

She closes her eyes - meditates, prays, longs to be near her son.

FLASH SCENE

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA - DAY

The Passion.

Mary arrives amidst the roaring, pushing and shoving. Jesus sees her - struggling with the heavy Imissa Crux to get near her - falters under the weight of the beams.

Roman Soldiers push the surrounding crowd back with ferocity.

ROMAN SOLDIER # 1  
Get back!!

Mary is shoved and thrown back into the crowd, away from her son. Jesus struggles to keep the wooden beams onto his shoulders.

JESUS  
Mother...

The weight of the cross drives Jesus heavily, painfully to his knees.

MARY  
Jesus!

END OF FLASH SCENE

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA - DAY

A dry wind blows.

Mary opens her eyes - out of breath. Jesus - gone. The road of trials, empty and quiet.

She looks to her left to see a small crowd of women looking her way - curious, cautious.

LIEBA (40's) steps forward from the other women.

LIEBA  
Are you the mother of one of the  
man who was crucified?



MARY

I am.

LIEBA

Jesus?

MARY

Yes.

LIEBA

I was here. I saw you speak to him on the hill. The way he looked at you. I knew you must have been his mother.

The half-a-dozen onlookers edge closer to Mary.

LIEBA (CONT'D)

I'm from Nain. My name is Lieba. A widow. I knew of your son. He knew of me.

Apostle John strides back up the Dolorosa.

APOSTLE JOHN

Everything all right, mother?

MARY

Yes. This is Lieba from Nain. She knew Jesus.

LIEBA

More than knew him. He greeted the women in public - I approached him. He was welcoming to me. He called back to life my only son, Elchanan. He's standing right over there.

Lieba turns. We see a young man, ELCHANAN (20's).

LIEBA (CONT'D)

He was very sick. I was alone. Jesus came to my house. I asked him, and - he came.

Mary moves to the woman (fellow travelers) - kisses her.

MARY

You're alone no more, Lieba.

Apostle John looks to see a bit of a crowd gathering. People begin to empty out from the adjoining alleyways.

APOSTLE JOHN

I think we should make our way to the market. Let's not excite the Pharisees.

MARY

Yes.

Apostle John helps Mary to her feet.

LIEBA

I do believe in him. I do believe he has risen.

MARY

You're right to think so. Your faith has saved you.

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - DAY

Mary and Apostle John walk together through the Temple Court of Women Square. In the arms of both are bread, fruits, wine and figs.

Mary, excited, preoccupied, inventories her dinner groceries.

MARY

Matthew likes the pomegranates. We have plenty of those. And, Simon... figs, and grapes... We have wine. Have we prepared enough, John?

Mary then begins to take notice of those things in her surroundings - growing a bit faint and nauseous.

APOSTLE JOHN

What is it?

MARY

It's the sensation I had near the cantina.

A small group gathers around a loud ISMAELITE MAN (Demon Alastor) - (60's) who speaks over the heads of a gathered crowd of citizens or, of, (rounded-up demons).

ISHMAELITE ALASTOR

And, so she claims her affairs are not even of those of other women.

Mary slows.

MARY

There. Do you hear that man? The one speaking?

APOSTLE JOHN

Where?

MARY

Before the portico.

Mary and Apostle John move to the edge of the gathered crowd. John pulls the protective hood over Mary's head.

ISHMAELITE - ALASTOR

It's the curse of Eden which keeps them unclean.

MARY

More demons from the cantina. Keep walking.

EXT. COURT OF GENTILES - DAY

Mary and John continue on through the Temple grounds.

A second crowd gathers around a HELLENISTIC JEW (70's) - (demon Baphomet).

HELENISTIC JEW BAPHOMET

How is it possible a mere butterfly pinned to a tree could deliver us from the armies of our adversaries? Like the Romans say, Ecce homo! (What a man!).

EXT. TEMPLE GATES - DAY

Mary and Apostle John approach the Temple exit way - slowing to briefly listen - as they hear...

A HEBREW WOMAN (demon Astaroth) - (40's) speaks to a third gathered assembly, hands open in prayer, palms facing downward.

HEBREW WOMAN (CONT'D)

The Alpha, the Omega. "No beginning and no end". Who could claim as such? From only nature these things come...

Mary and Apostle John walk past exiting the Temple Portico.

APOSTLE JOHN

What does she speak of?

MARY

Inverting what is, with what is not.

EXT. TEMPLE PORTICO EXIT- DAY

Mary and Apostle John rush to exit the Temple grounds.

APOSLTE JOHN

Let's hurry!

As they pass, a small, cloaked figure sits on the ground with his head covered deep inside his hooded tunic.

Inaudible, rumblings of prayers to his own master, Lucifer.

MAN(V.O.)

Pater enim vacui est.

MAN (SUBTITLES)

Father of the void.

MAN (V.O.)

Et micantis Regia in lucem  
desuper stellam matutinam.

MAN(SUBTITLES) (CONT'D)

Guiding light and the morning  
star above.

The man pulls back his hooded tunic to reveal himself as the boy from the Roman Garrison.

Beneath him, he spins the small wooden cross around between his fingers landing in an upside-down position of itself - inverted.

MAN (V.O.)

Et Lamia cui tradita orbem  
creaturae eius.

MAN(SUBTITLES) (CONT'D)

And, Lilith who seeded the  
world with her creation.

With another stick, he scribbles in the dirt, next to the inverted cross the word, "NATURE".

FIGURE (V.O.)

Born without the stain of sin.

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary sits at the Apostle table formally dressed.

Heavy crucifix timber nails are placed to her left, along with her son's carpenter's tools to her right.

The cup of the carpenter - directly before her.

MARY

My friends... Listen to me. For in  
all saints there are defects. But  
in all of you, invincible,  
unhesitating constancy.

In equal measure, six Apostles sit on either side of her, inclusive of Mary Magdelen (the proxy 12th Apostle).

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Know that these are the watchwords  
 of the predestined.

The long table is readied with freshly caught fish, bountiful  
 bundles of grapes, olives, figs and pomegranates.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 You are the saints of the new  
 evangelical law.

Mary, the coadjutrix - her rightful place, center-naval of  
 the table, and that of the world.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 My heart has been made known to the  
 mysteries of heaven, so shall they  
 now be made known to you.

EXT. EGYPTIAN DESERT - FLASHBACK - DAY

Joseph waters the mule. Away from Joseph, an ADOLESCENT JESUS  
 (13) speaks to Mary.

ADOLESCENT JESUS  
 Mother, things that are hidden, no  
 one in heaven or earth can see -  
 until the lamb breaks the seal by  
 his Passion.

MARY  
 Passion? What do you speak of?

ADOLESCENT JESUS  
 Nothing more than the new laws of  
 the gospels.

MARY  
 What gospels?

ADOLESCENT JESUS  
 The ones to be written.

EXT. EASTERN SIDE OF MT. OLIVET - DAY

Bathing light streams through manifest palms, cloaks and  
 branches over Jesus who rides a burrow into Jerusalem from  
 the desert.

Mary is nearby - she too is famished, thin - ecstatic.

MARY (V.O.)  
I received the first fruits of  
grace, and from there, I was to  
follow him in his labors until his  
death on the cross.

Thousands of spotless Passover lambs are held high, pushed  
skyward.

MARY (V.O.)  
I've seen the Most High.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary, continues. Apostles silent.

MARY  
I know what is meant by God.

EXT. JOACHIM AND ANNE'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Bonfires ignite - JOACHIM and ANNE (60's) father and mother  
to Mary, surround themselves in celebration of Mary's third  
birthday.

MARY (V.O.)  
Being three in Person and one True  
God. It is the trinity of the  
father, son and the holy ghost.

No expense spared - a feast of thanks provided to the lowly,  
poor, and downtrodden.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary looks at each.

MARY (V.O.)  
The father is not made, nor  
created, nor begotten. Nor can he  
have a beginning.

INT. TEMPLE HALL CORRIDOR - FLASHBACK - DAY

Young Mary, adorned in vestments, strides toward the awaiting  
priest in the chamber of the Holy of Holies.

MARY (V.O.)  
Equal in their duration from  
eternity. Three in person -  
knowing, loving, and comprehending.

EXT. HOLY OF THE HOLIES - DAY

Mary passes the altar - looks back at her friends.

MARY (V.O.)  
So as to secure eternal unity.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary continues.

MARY  
The son derives his origin from the  
father alone - they are equal in  
duration and unity.

INT. MARY AND JOSEPH'S HOME - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

GABRIEL (20's) hands a weeping, distraught TEENAGE MARY (17)  
a single palm.

MARY (V.O.)  
He was begotten by the intelligence  
of the father.

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA - DAY

Mary and Jesus sit side-by-side along the road of trials.

Both watch the actual Passion procession unfold separately  
before them.

Like the young boy on the rooftop sharing his stories, Jesus  
now reveals the sacred mysteries to Mary.

JESUS	MARY (V.O.)
The holy ghost proceeds from the father and the son through love.	The holy ghost proceeds from the father and the son through love.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Cutting barley and stacking wheat, a dry breeze blows - Mary  
speaks to her friend Mary Magdalen.

MARY (V.O.)  
In their indivisible trinity there  
is nothing that could be called  
first, or last, greater or smaller.

EXT. SEA OF GALILEE - DUSK

Mary stands with Jesus looking outward to the fisherman who cast their nets upon the calm waters.

JESUS	MARY (V.O.)
They are the same divinity, equal in each glory and majesty...	The power, the eternity, the immensity, the wisdom and sanctity.

EXT. CITY STREET - TWO YEARS EARLIER - DAY

Jesus and Mary are surrounded by Temple children.

MARY (V.O.)  
He is measureless which is known to  
the son, and the son to the holy  
ghost - all in the intelligence of  
the father.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary reaches out for the hands for those close to her.

MARY  
The natural things of this world,  
are not the supernatural things in  
his. The latter will be peddled and  
men will fall. And, I warn you...

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA HILLSIDE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Mary sits roadside and opens her eyes. Sitting across from her - the Demon Boy.

BOY  
Lucifer's appetite is not pacified.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENTACLE - NIGHT

Mary - still.

MARY  
And, like mine, yours too is the  
second troubled cup.

EXT/INT. NAZARENE DWELLING - EARLY MORNING FLASHBACK - DAY

Jesus places a small palm frond onto the small kitchen table. He exits the door and leaves the house.



Mary wakes, gets up, and locks the door, turns to see the frond on the table.

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAY

As one of the many to be baptized, Jesus approaches JOHN THE BAPTIST (30's).

JESUS  
Suffer it to be now. For it  
becometh' us to fulfill all  
justice.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

Jesus - 33rd day in the wilderness.

Parched and dried lips, he prostrates himself on the ground in prayer with arms spread wide.

JESUS  
Father, remember my battle and  
prepare my victory...

MARY (V.O.)  
I fasted while he fasted. I  
resisted as he did.

INT. NAZARENE DWELLING - DAY

Mary prayers, famished - holding vigil with fasting - the 33rd day - she too prostrates herself in prayer on the clay floor.

MARY (CONT'D)  
In favor of mortal souls attacked  
by the common enemy...

A knock is heard on the door.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

A figure of a kind, OLD MAN (60's) "Lucifer" fills the cave entrance entryway.

The Old Man approaches a turned-away Jesus with a sheepskin bladder filled with wine - he drinks.

OLD MAN LUCIFER  
Your mother has concealed you away  
from me.

INT. NAZARENE DWELLING - EARLY MORNING - DAY

Astaroth, female demon of lasciviousness is dressed humbly as a handmaiden - sits across from Mary adoringly.

ASTAROTH

Your son has left alone. I've brought fresh, cold water from the Ga'aton, cut fish. Your friends at the centacle are concerned. They love you, Mary. It's not natural to deprive yourself.

MARY

I know they love me.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

Old Man Lucifer moves closer to Jesus, extends his bladder bag.

JESUS

Amen I say unto Morning Star, what is hers is hers.

Jesus resists the baited attempt - remains still

OLD MAN LUCIFER

If you are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

JESUS

Man does not live on bread alone...

INT. NAZAREN DWELLING - EARLY MORNING - DAY

Astaroth, prepares a small morning table.

MARY (CONT'D)

But in every word which comes from the mouth of God.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

Old Man Lucifer stands and drinks from his sheep's bladder - looks out to the edge of the cliff-line.

OLD MAN LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Cast yourself down and in their hands shall bear you up...

INT. NAZARENE DWELLING - EARLY MORNING - DAY

Astaroth rinses freshly plucked grapes and fruits and places them before Mary.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Thou shall not tempt thy Lord, thy  
God.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

Old Man Lucifer gestures to the endless lands in his purview.

OLD MAN LUCIFER  
All of this will I give you!

JESUS  
Yet, offering what you do not  
possess.

INT. NAZARENE DWELLING - EARLY MORNING - DAY

Mary, waning, picks up an inviting, luscious, bundle of  
grapes.

MARY  
My ambition is not aroused.

Mary then packs the food back up and gives it back to her  
visitor.

MARY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
Forgive me for my inhospitality.  
You're very unaware of the  
dangerous softness of my nature.

EXT. DESERT CAVE DWELLING - DAY

Jesus stands - confronts the Old Man Lucifer.

JESUS  
(beat)  
In Him only shalt thy serve. And,  
with you... shalt I bury.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CENACLE - NIGHT

Mary, reaches for the cup before her. Sips and passes it to  
those that surround her.

MARY  
In remembrance of him.

INT. HELL'S CENACLE - NIGHT

Lucifer sits center stage at his table - equal amount of demons as Apostles mocking all attribute of the Lord's last supper.

LUCIFER  
And, where the holy ghost will  
place those bishops to rule the  
church of God.

Directly before Lucifer, the bloody crown of thorns Jesus had left behind.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)  
We will send in our ravenous wolves  
to separate its flock from its  
shepherd.

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAYS LATER - DAY

Mary and her attendees work riverside, washing and sewing clothes. Other women and their daughters do the same.

Mary Magdalen approaches Mary who works at a small river-table, washing, sewing - refers to the young girls down the riverbank.

MARY MAGDELEN  
"Of-Age" daughters of the Temple,  
asking, "Of-Age" questions.

MARY  
Father's negotiating their spouses?

MARY MAGDELEN  
Some. And, other questions, too  
from the young mothers. Your  
"purity" and how is it possible to  
a "mother?"

Mary Magdalen turns and signals for the young girls and their mothers to come near.

Two dozen demure and shy young mothers and their daughters circle around the seated Mary.

MARY  
My friend tells me some of you are  
from the Temple, to be betrothed?

Some shy young girls nod their heads.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Things are feeling as if they  
 happen so fast, don't they?

ALL GIRLS  
 Yes...

The shy young girls acknowledge. A young Girl, TAMAR (12)  
 steps forward.

TAMAR  
 Were you scared when a man was  
 selected for you?

MARY  
 I was. And, excited. From playing  
 seed ball to being presented before  
 the High Holy priests. But, I knew  
 they were doing what was best for  
 me. They wanted to make sure I was  
 taken care of - looked out after.  
 Not alone in this big world. Do you  
 understand?

ALL GIRLS  
 Yes...

The surrounding mother's faces inquisitively still thirst to  
 ask the question of the unanswerable.

MARY MAGDELEN  
 The mothers too, Mary. They wonder,  
 how is it possible to remain,  
 "pure" and yet to still have a son?

MARY  
 Come closer and I'll tell you all a  
 story.

The mothers steps closer and sit with the daughters.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Like some of you, I was also  
 presented at the Temple.

FLASH SCENE

EXT. TEMPLE COURT YARD - DAY

Female Temple Guardian steps out from the courtyard steps.

TEMPLE GUARDIAN  
 Mary?

Young Mary turns to the Temple entryway. She hands the seed ball over to her friend Rivka.

MARY (V.O.)  
That was the day I left my friends  
behind and said goodbye to them.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAYS LATER - DAY

Mary continues.

MARY  
My parents taught me to read and to  
write. I was also taught how to  
understand Greek, and Latin.

FLASH SCENE

INT. TEMPLE COURT OF WOMEN - DAY

Young Mary is adorned in golden weaves and tassels.

MARY (V.O.)  
I wasn't familiar at all with  
marriage or even for its reasons. I  
worked and played like all of you.

FLASH SCENE

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAY

Young Mary sits at her mother Anne's side washing clothes and watching the young boys swim in the river.

MARY (V.O.)  
I cleaned clothes with my mother  
right here. I stared at the boys in  
the river often wondering what  
mysteries they are?

FLASH SCENE

EXT. HIGH HOLY TEMPLE - DAY

Young Mary stands before the grand Holy place and its towering altar.

MARY (V.O.)  
But my passion came from being at  
the Temple. I secretly read the  
law, learning from the High-Holy  
Priests.

FLASH SCENE

INT. TEMPLE ROOM - NIGHT

Young Mary lights the oil lamp, and opens a scroll.

MARY (V.O.)  
I was always preparing, just like  
you're doing now - for something  
much larger than myself.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAY

TAMAR  
What was that?

MARY  
To carry a son.

Mary broadens out the discussion to speak to the young  
mothers of the group.

MARY (CONT'D)  
But it wasn't that simple of  
course. The Temple appointed Joseph  
as my husband.

FLASH SCENE

INT. CARPENTER'S SHOP - DAY

Mary prepares figs and grapes for Joseph and his four sons,  
JOSEPH 2nd (12), JAMES (15), JUDE (17), SIMON (18).

The boys make bow drills and oxen yolks out of the various  
cypress, oak, cedar, and sycamore.

MARY (V.O.)  
He was a man who made sure I was  
protected, and fed, and that we had  
a place to live. More of a second  
father.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - DAY

Mary leans in closer to her young disciples.

MARY  
I was like a sister to his four  
sons. My brothers. They all looked  
out after me.

ILLA

Like my father.

MARY

Yes. So, a friend named Gabriel came to visit me. He asked a very important question. "Would I carry a son, from a virgin birth, who would come to change the world?" I was still "betrothed" not yet "married". I said, "How could this be by not knowing a man?"

ILLA

What did you do?

MARPIECES OF

I was scared. I didn't know what was happening.

TAMAR

What about Joseph?

MARY

It scared him, too. He didn't know what to do, or what to think of me?

ILLA

Did you tell your friends?

MARY

No. I stayed quiet, and I listened and prayed. Gabriel came back and then told me, "Fear not, for that I had found favor with the Lord".

TAMAR

God was the father of your son?

MARY

Yes.

ILLA

But how?

MARY

Because through him, all things are possible, and he wanted to know us. He wanted us, to know him. So he sent his son so we could.

TAMAR

So, there wasn't a need for a man?



The surrounding women and mothers share a look of those possibilities. (No man?)

MARY

In my case, my knowing a man wasn't necessary. And, like your own fertile hearts, I readied myself like you're doing now. And, as I have become, "The Handmaiden of the Lord" you too are all now becoming - the "first daughters of the mystical body".

EXT. JERUSALEM ALLEYWAY - DAY

A starving, vicious, thin-ribbed, pregnant, wild scavenger dog eats and chews in a corner.

Lying in wait - the Demon Boy tosses him bits and pieces of weeks-old garbage.

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA HILLSIDE - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Mary's eyes open - sunlight bathes from the 11 AM hour.

She turns to see scores and scores and scores of women who fill the narrow street all clutching palm fronds. (Signs of Victory).

Apostle John and Mary Magdalen approach.

APOSTLE JOHN

They've come to be with you.

MARY

All of them?

MARY MAGDELEN

Yes. Mary, they've brought their sick.

APOSTLE JOHN

Mary, healing, so publicly. Could be dangerous. Especially now. Possibly we invite them to the grove - away from the city center, and the garrison.

MARY

John, we're not here to hide. Let them come to me.

EXT. JERUSALEM ALLEYWAY - DAY

Caiaphus, Annas and a and other Pharisees hurriedly make their way towards the gathered crowds.

The Demon Boy turns his back, the Pharisees pass. He then turns and makes his own way toward Mary and the Via Dolorosa.

EXT. VIA DOLOROSA HILLSIDE - DAY

Mary stands to greet those who have come. A woman named AVHISHAG (30's) approaches.

ASHISHAG

Are you the mother of the risen son?

MARY

Yes.

ASHISHAG

My name is Avhishag. Would you consider praying over my daughter? She's very sick. Her hands are spotted, I'm afraid we may be sent to the leper colony.

MARY

Bring her to me.

Avhishag turns and signals for the young girl to step forward.

ASHISHAG

This is my daughter. Her name is Orli.

MARY

Hello, Orli.

MORE - VARIOUS

Annas, Caiaphus and the other Pharisees arrive and find a strategic vantage point and look on to the masse of growing people.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

They surround her like they did the other.

MARY

Let me see your hands.

The young girl puts them forward and Mary inspects. Mary bends down to greet the young girl in the eyes.

MARY (CONT'D)  
What's your favorite game?

ORLI  
Seed ball...

MARY  
Mine, too. Your faith has made you  
clean, Orli. Avishag, your daughter  
is healed.

Avishag inspects her daughter's little hands to see them  
clean - spotless. She breaks to her knees and gives thanks.

ASHISHAG  
Thank you, mother Mary. Thank you.

A push of mothers surge toward Mary, surrounding her,  
supporting her - loving her.

Palm fronds sway like pulsing waves on an open sea.

MARY  
Look, John. They now know my son.

EXT. VANTAGE POINT ABOVE THE VIA DOLOROSA - DAY

Annas, Caiaphus and the others below witness Mary's healing  
and the welcoming of the sick and ill.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS  
She curries the Gentile favor by  
healing the sick brought to them by  
the mothers of Jerusalem.

PHARISEE ANNAS  
Let us remember, Moses delivered  
the children of Israel.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS  
We better pray he delivers the  
Pharisees of Jerusalem.

INT. CARPENTER'S SHOP - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Yet still in repair, work areas have been made into make-  
shift study areas.

Mary, Apostle John and Mary's attendees, Yaffa and Vered  
oversee a study session of half a dozen young girls and  
mothers who endeavor to read.

ILLA  
A solis, ort...

MARY

A solis ortus cardine. From eastern  
lands that first see the sun.

We hear a hurried knock on the door.

Apostle John gets up to open it - Mary Magdalen and James the  
Less push their way in and shut the door behind them.

MARY (CONT'D)

What is it, Mary? James?

MARY MAGDELEN

The Centacle.

JAMES THE LESS

The nations are arriving for the  
feast. You should come!

EXT. JERUSALEM HILLTOP STREET - DAY

Mary, John and James The Less look onto the Centacle below.  
An amass of foreign travelers surround it, gathering,  
converging.

MARY

What's happening? Are they in  
danger?

JAMES THE LESS

No. They're curious.

EXT. CENTACLE DOORS - DAY

Apostles John and Mary Magdalen cover Mary and push her  
through the onslaught of the inquisitive, and feast revelers.

INT. CENTACLE - DAY

Mary, John and Mary Magdalen enter. Centacle doors close  
behind them.

MARY

Peter? What's happened? Why is the  
Centacle surrounded?

The Apostles gather and surround Mary.

APOSTLE PETER

Mother, they've come to the  
Centacle first to hear of Jesus.  
And, not just surrounded, but  
surrounded by foreigners, here for  
the feast - strangers from all  
parts of the world.

MARY

Are you sure that's what they speak of?

MATTHEW

The city of Jerusalem and its neighbors have been stirred to wonder of those things that have happened here. The procession through the streets, Mt. Olivet.

APOSTLE PETER

Then this is the day, Mother. The nations have come and we can begin, here, to the world itself that is now at our front door.

Pitched excitement.

MARY

Yes, yes...

The Apostles ready themselves to step out into the awaiting crowds - drawing closer their tunics, reaching for their walking staffs.

APOSTLE PETER

Mary? Speak to us before we go out. To those parts in us that are still hesitant?

Eager and excited Apostles circle around her.

MARY

Yes, yes, yes. (beat) Hold my hands. Remember as I have said.

EXT. CENTACLE DOORS - DAY

The Apostles exit the Centacle and disperse in a line among themselves facing the immense, intimidating silent crowd.

MARY (V.O.)

If you think of my son, afflicted, and crowned with thorns - you now must be the persecuted and not the persecutor.

Congregating before the Centacle doors are those from the far gentile lands of Raamah, Mesech, Lybia, Kedar, Isles of Elisha.

MARY (V.O.)

The oppressed, not the oppressor.

Mary and Mary Magdalene join Peter on either side.

MARY

The ones that bear the cross.

APOSTLE PETER

Eager and hungry faces.

MARY

The ones who encounter the scandal  
and not the ones who provide it.

APOSTLE JUDE THADDEUS

Of all nations.

MARY

Speak in the language of Palestine,  
and the world's ears will hear you.  
Tell them all, that by his stripes  
we are healed - that death holds no  
more terror.

EXT. CENTACLE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Apostles and crowds walk to the Temple, surround - Apostle  
Matthew.

APOSTLE MATTHEW

I was worse than a murderer when he  
accepted my invitation to eat with  
him. I collected tax for the  
Romans. I had much to learn, and,  
unlearn.

MORE - CONTINUED

Apostle Thomas - surrounded by hoards - the Temple lies in  
the distance.

APOSTLE THOMAS

I was broken, afraid, fighting with  
my other brothers. In my darkest  
moment, he then walked back in  
through the door - pulled my  
fingers inside his wounds,  
forgiving my unbelief, using me in  
his own way so that others who  
won't see him, can still believe.

MORE - CONTINUED

Mary and Mary Magdalen work through the walking amass of  
travelers to each Apostle.

Mary encourages each with her ongoing and last-minute counseling.

MARY  
Remember, Thaddeus. Tell them.  
Greatness doesn't consist of what  
is visible or of earthly things.

MORE - CONTINUED

Mary finds Simon - shoulders up to him in Simon's circling crowd.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Riches obscure the glory of the  
Lord. If so, they'll fail to  
experience the divine grace.

Mary rushes over to Apostle Philip.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Philip, remember, you've been given  
the power of the Holy Spirit, to  
heal and to forgive sin. What you  
forgive is forgiven...

Mary shoulders up to Bartholomew.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Bartholomew, they must not place  
their perfection in hollow self-  
love. Speak of boldness in avoiding  
sin.

Mary finds James the Greater.

MARY (CONT'D)  
James. Tell them - not to seek  
honors or fly from injury.

Mary - James the Less (Son of Alphaeus).

MARY (CONT'D)  
We mustn't strive for riches, or  
condemn the poor.

Mary - Apostle Andrew.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Speak Andrew, of an athletic heart.  
One which accepts contempt, the  
true trademarks of lasting love.

APOSTLE ANDREW  
Yes, Mother.

Andrew looks upward - before him the Temple Portico Gates.

APOSTLE ANDREW (CONT'D)  
We're here.

EXT. TEMPLE PORTICO FACADE - DAY

The lumbering crowd of foreigners, Gentiles and Jewish residents work their way in through the narrow Temple Portico Gates entrance.

The Apostles linger to the rear.

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - DAY

A swelling mass of humanity begins flooding into the Temple square.

EXT. PORTICO FACADE - DAY

The Apostles gather before stepping inside the high-arching, portico entryway.

APOSTLE PETER  
Keep your wits about you, brothers.  
Speak from our teachings. We'll  
meet back at the Centacle tonight.  
The Lord is with us, today. Speak  
boldly of the good news!

APOSTLES  
Amen.

The men begin to file in beneath the facade.

INT. PORTICO FACADE - DAY

The Apostles gather - look out to the swelling mass - consider how they may be greeted.

APOSTLE JAMES THE LESS  
It's loud out there.

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE - DAY

The Apostles immerse from under the portico facade. Before them, the awaiting sea of the convergence of the feast.

APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW (CONT'D)  
About to get a lot louder, I think.

The twelve set out in all different directions of the Temple Square - immersing, absorbed, moving through the people, talking, conversing, reaching out to those at the feast.



Roman Guards patrol - Temple Police and Scribes keep vigilant.

INT. CENTACLE - LATER - NIGHT

With not an inch for one more person, Mary, Mary Magdalen and the Apostles gather before those who have followed the Apostles back to the Centacle.

Peter stands. The crowd grows quiet.

APOSTLE PETER

My brethren, and servants of the Most High, to my right, is the Mother of our Redeemer and Master, Jesus Christ. Take light as you look upon her and receive her as your Mother, our refuge and Intercessor, for through her we shall receive direction and release from our sins and miseries.

The gathered bow their heads before Mary.

APOSTLE JOHN

Their hearts thirst, Mother. Speak to them.

APOSTLE PHILIP

Yes, let them hear from you.

Mary, hesitant, steps forward above those before her.

MARY

My dearest children, you have heard of my son, today.

Filling the Centacle, the wondrous tranquility of Mary's full and radiant grace.

MARY (CONT'D)

In him, the Lord, give thanks and praise with your whole hearts to the Almighty God. He has come to us so that we may know the father. Among all men, he has called and drawn you to the sure path of eternal life in the knowledge of the holy faith you have received today.

Pharisee Caiaphus and Annas appear from the rear.

PHARISEE ANNAS

It's impressive, if nothing else.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

By week's end, the newly converted will be returning to their own nations, with a new message from an empathetic widow, who speaks of her crucified son at the hands of a Roman occupation.

MARY (CONT'D)

I offer myself as your handmaid to assist in all that serves toward your consolation.

PHARISEE ANNAS

Send the Temple Police for Nicodemus. If Joseph is a descendent of Solomon, let's hear from her how it's possible for the King of the Jews to take his rightful place as a descendent of David.

EXT. APOSTLE JOHN'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Pharisee Nicodemus stands by as two from the TEMPLE POLICE (30's) knock loudly and repeatedly.

Apostle John opens the door. He sees before him the authority of the Temple and Nicodemus.

APOSTLE JOHN

What is this?

INT. PHARISEES CHAMBERS - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Pharisee council scribes and scholars find their seating. PHARISEE SCRIBE GAMALIEL (40's) reviews Mary's lineage.

PHARISEE ANNAS

Let our words be deliberate, so as to be just in the eyes of this proceeding.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

Yes.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

Don't let a flicker of light remain. Let the Nazarene reveal herself as, the *Mother of God*.

INT. PHARISEE PASSAGEWAY - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Mary is hurriedly led down the narrow corridor by the Temple Police, followed by Apostle John and Nicodemus.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
 They'll be looking for the  
 watchwords of blasphemy, Mary. They  
 won't think twice about having you  
 stoned.

INT. PHARISEES CHAMBER - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Mary, John and Nicodemus enter the chamber. Nicodemus takes  
 his rightful place amongst the council.

Apostle John stands near Mary's side.

APOSTLE JOHN  
 I present, Mary of Nazareth.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS  
 Mother of Jesus?

MARY  
 Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
 And, you are?

APOSTLE JOHN  
 John, son of Zebedee. Mary's  
 guardian.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
 Thank you for your cooperation. You  
 may go.

APOSTLE JOHN  
 Pharisee, I thank you in advance  
 for your patience. It would be  
 inappropriate for me to leave her  
 side. I will stand to her right,  
 providing witness and bearing if  
 need be.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
 Very well.

Apostle John positions behind Mary to her right.

PHARISEE NICODEMUS  
 Mary, our most learned Pharisee  
 Gamaliel has some questions. Take  
 the time you would need to answer.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
 Of course. This is not an official  
 proceeding, simply a mere inquiry.

MARY

I understand.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

Let's proceed. The Centacle appears to be the center point of a new and burgeoning sectarian faith. The twelve who proclaim to have followed your son, filled the Temple square, preaching of a redeemer, your son having come for the sins of man. His blood paid as ransom, is that correct?

MARY

Yes.

Gamaliel reads from a lineage scroll.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

I see you were born in Nazareth, daughter of Joachim and Anne. Tribe of Juda?

MARY

Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

Fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile.

MARY

Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

Daughter of the Temple, presented to Hiliel?

MARY

Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

And, Joseph, your husband. A descendent from the Tribe of Juda?

MARY

No.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL

Solomon?

MARY

Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
You're aware the descendents of  
Solomon carry a blood curse  
disqualifying any biological son  
from ever being the King of Israel?

MARY  
Yes, I'm aware.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Yet, Jesus, your son, referred to  
himself as the King of the Jews. He  
spoke of himself this way?

MARY  
Not publicly.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Privately?

MARY  
It was the grounds for Judas'  
betrayal of him.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
And, I see here, Joseph, was a  
descendent of Solomon, son of  
Jacob?

MARY  
Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
"The King of Israel" would have to  
be a descendent of David, son of  
Abraham. Not that of Solomon,  
correct?

MARY  
I was betrothed to Joseph by the  
elders in the Temple. Joseph was  
Jesus' foster-father not his blood  
father.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Not his blood father?

MARY  
Yes.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Were you married prior to Joseph?

MARY  
No.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Was Jesus conceived, out of  
"wedlock?"

Mary looks to Nicodemus.

MARY  
No.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
But if Joseph was a mere  
stepfather, or guardian, then the  
question ultimately becomes, "Who  
is the father of Jesus?" If no  
lineage can be assigned, how would  
even his private claim, "King of  
the Jews" have authority?

MARY  
Jesus was conceived in accordance  
with the prophets.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Oh, the prophets?

MARY  
Yes.

Mary, very aware of snares - holds quiet.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
The prophets say the Moshiah would  
be a descendent of David. The  
lineage of your son, the so-called  
Messiah, as the King of Israel,  
stepson of Joseph, father, unknown?  
Do you see my predicament? And, why  
would you have a son out of  
wedlock? It appears Joseph did you  
quite a favor by protecting your,  
propriety, then you have a son  
outside the bounds of marriage and  
claim the authority of the prophets  
to hide your crime?

Mary steps forward to face her accuser.

MARY  
The prophets also say in Genesis  
the Messiah would be born of a  
woman. "Micah" - born in Bethlehem,  
Isaiah - born of a virgin. And,  
that he would be heir to King  
David's throne.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
A virgin? And, you believe, you are  
the "assembled" trinity of these  
three things?

Chambers grow deathly still.

MARY  
I am.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
Are you the mother of God? The  
bridge that leads from earth to  
paradise? And, you are its mother?

The Pharisees laugh at Mary - attempt to humiliate her.

MARY  
I am the mother of the Son of Man.  
The one who died and has risen  
again. The one who glorified the  
face of Moses. The one whose  
spittle opened up a man's eyes who  
was blind from birth. The one who  
led them out from the bonds of  
servitude in Egypt, and now has  
released the bonds of the original  
curse. They asked for Barabbas, but  
it was Jesus given over to death.  
His words, his deeds, have become  
incarnate in me.

PHARISEE GAMALIEL  
And, how do we know whether or not  
he is nothing more than a false  
Messiah? Our Temple square is  
littered with them.

MARY  
No one gathers grapes from thorns,  
and no one gathers figs from  
thistles. By his fruits, you would  
know him.

EXT. GOLGOTHA - EARLY MORNING - DAWN - DAY

Distraught, Mary is followed by Apostle John and Nicodemus  
towards the top of the hill of skulls.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Tell us Nicodemus. Blasphemy?

NICODEMUS  
They're unsure of a crime. More  
dangerously occupied with tensions  
that are building with the Romans.  
(MORE)

## NICODEMUS (CONT'D)

They may look for a reason to consolidate the temple over another execution but also afraid of a Gentile reaction.

## MARY

All they were asking of me was to turn from Jesus as if I no longer knew him...

## APOSTLE JOHN

Mary, it's no longer safe for you here. They'll be targeting you. It's no longer safe.

## INT. PILATE'S TRAINING COURTYARD - DAY

PONTIUS PILATE (40's), physical military training of two dozen top commanders. Caiaphus and Annas stand by.

## PONTIUS PILATE

And, now, I suppose you wish for me to bring charges, and my Roman might down onto the head of the sonless, mother? Send my brigades of commanders in for her? Have her arrested? Parade her in front of those at your next feast? Shall, I have her crucified too, Annas?

## PHARISEE ANNAS

No, but she does continue in his name. A growing unrest persists.

## PONTIUS PILATE

She's the mother of a crucified man! What else would you expect?

## PHARISEE CAIAPHUS

We expect her to act in accordance with our law.

## PONTIUS PILATE

I understand the law, Annas. The Roman Empire, from Mesopotamia to Belgica was built on it. Let me ask you, where in all of this law of Moses lies the smallest bit of your faith's mercy? You look to agitate the crowds once again? To what end?

## CAIAPHUS

It's more than that, Prefect.



PONTIUS PILATE

I'm tiring of your Temple's internal problems. Your own faith has been splintered over the centuries hasn't it? You don't recognize the gentile as your own cousin. The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Essenes. You've seemed to manage. Why not another?

PHARISEE ANNAS

Prefect... If we do so, we will defy the heart of who we are as a people. That is what this new sect asks. Our law is sacred...

PONTIUS PILATE

Annas, we've given you what you wanted. You have the authority to stone her under your own laws of Leviticus? Isn't that right?

CAIAPHUS

Yes.

PONTIUS PILATE

Then do it. Or, are you afraid of a gentile reprisal? Or, having her blood on your own hands?! I run this province. You run your people. You have Moses, and I have Caesar. I've washed my hands with all of this, with your - Jesus of Nazareth.

CAIAPHUS

Yes, but their disciples grow daily. The Temple square...

PONTIUS PILATE

Enough! My suggestion is for you to speak to Herod. He'll appreciate my gesture. I'm quite sure he'll suggest something keenly enough on how to address your "second-insurrection" - led by the, ever-so-formidable-woman, of a crucified carpenter. I tire of all of this. Leave me.

INT. HEROD OF ANTIPAS PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

Drunken and gluttonous, a half-naked, HEROD OF ANTIPAS (50's) lies blissfully on a sea of silk cushions.

Chortling next to him, Astaroth, Lucifer's confederate demon of lasciviousness along with half-a-dozen palace maidens.

Annas and Caiaphus, nearby.

HEROD ANTIPAS  
Pilate sent you?

PHARISEE ANNAS  
He suggested we bring you our concerns.

Herod leans up on his pillows - modesty, not an issue.

HEROD ANTIPAS  
Well, Annas, it's hardly credible, one single woman could be such a threat to who we are, what we've built.

PHARISEE CAIAPHUS  
It's not only her. The disciples of her son, are growing. He'd spoken of destroying of the Temple in three days. Your Temple.

HEROD ANTIPAS  
And, we dealt with that, haven't we?

PHARISEE ANNAS  
We fear the others may look to carry out his wishes.

Astaroth leans in to Herod and whispers a private message to her King lover.

HEROD ANTIPAS  
Yes... My friend suggests we may give our attention to those who surround her... Weaken her will by the suffering of those she loves. (seduced) It appears, I'm persuaded.

INT. HEROD'S BASTILLE - NIGHT

Apostle Peter is strong-armed into the cell and thrown to the ground. Deep in the shadows - the demon boy.

BOY  
Hell is now free.

EXT. STONING SITE OF ST. STEVEN - DAY

SAUL OF TARSUS (40) stands by a macabre scene of execution holding the coats and garb of those who gather rocks nearby.

An agitated crowd shoves and leads DISCIPLE STEVEN (30's) to the edge of a dug out pit.

DISCIPLE STEVEN  
Joseph made himself known to his  
brothers!

Mary and Apostle John circle the pending stoning - nothing they can do.

MARY  
They're going to kill him.

Steven is then pushed and muscled off the edge into the hole. High and heavy rocks are lifted, heavy rocks descend.

DISCIPLE STEVEN  
And, Joseph's family became known  
to the Pharaoh!

INT. JEWISH REBEL STRONGHOLD - JOTAPATA VALLEY - DAY

Young rebel leader YOSEF BEN MATITIYAHU (20's) prepares his sporadic insurgency of rebels with weapons and stolen Roman chest plates.

YOSEF BEN MATITIYAHU  
Our first steps to an independent  
Judean state.

EXT. OUTLYING ROMAN GARRISON - NIGHT

Matitiyahu's men begin circling the Roman stronghold with drawn weapons and torches.

Flaming arrows trace the night sky.

EXT. ROAD TO GALILEE - NIGHT

JEWISH ZEALOT REBELS miles out from Galilee, march towards its open city.

EXT. MT. OLIVET - NIGHT

Mary and Apostle John crest over the ridge to see dotted burning fires both in the city and the countryside.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Matitiyahu, or possibly, Simon Bar-  
Giora - Rebel fighters.

MARY  
I worry for Vered, and Yaffa...

APOSTLE JOHN  
Let's get back home.

INT. APOSTLE JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THREE MEN from an outside mob kick through John's door and hustle out Mary's attendees, Vered and Yaffa - screams amongst flames.

VERED / YAFFA  
Noooo! Ahhhhh!!!

EXT. APOSTLE JOHN'S HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT

John leads Mary through the dark Jerusalem streets. In the distance, we hear the morose agitation of an inflamed crowd.

John and Mary turn the corner to see, a mob of riotous Israelites who carry rocks and burning torches - circling, surrounding John's home.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Get back, Mary!

Attendees, Yeffa and Vered rush to Mary and John's sides, panting, sobbing.

MARY  
Are you hurt?

YEFFA  
They grabbed us, screamed at us -  
wanted us out of Jerusalem.

RIOTOUS MOB  
His disciples stole the body!

Rocks rain down onto the empty house of John - set aflame.

RIOTOUS MOB (CONT'D)  
They look to lead us to our own  
slaughter!!

INT. CENACLE - 2 AM - NIGHT

Mary sits center-table along with Mary Magdalen and ten of the Apostles. (Peter missing).

The cenacle is quiet - palpable fear grips the room.

## APOSLTE MATHEW

Peter was arrested by Herod,  
 prodded by council members.

## APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW

And, Steven.

## MARY

We were there. He pleaded. They  
 gave him no mercy. None.

## APOSTLE JOHN

Saul of Tarsus. He's begun hunting  
 believers. By the killing of God's  
 children somehow he sees himself as  
 the protector of the father's  
 works.

## APOSTLE ANDREW

It's not safe, Mother. The city is  
 hot with tension, incoming roads,  
 dangerous, filled with Zealots who  
 are preparing themselves against  
 the Romans.

## APOSTLE SIMON

They look to set up strongholds in  
 the city, gain favor from the High-  
 Priests.

## APOSTLE JAMES

Pilate or Rome will have no  
 patience with insurrection. It  
 would only be a matter of time.

## APOSTLE THOMAS

We're ready mother... We're ready  
 to go out into the world. Just say  
 it as so.

Mary pours from a bladder of wine into the carpenter's cup.

## MARY

Then let's drink from his cup  
 together for the last time and let  
 it not pass. Go out to the world as  
 he has asked of you.

Each of the Apostles sip as it's passed about.

## MARY (CONT'D)

Carry with you the mysteries of  
 Heaven your ears have heard from  
 me. And, remember as he has told  
 me, I shall tell you...

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

"Death has no terror", and by his suffering, the "human heart is born".

EXT. CENACLE - NIGHT

Mary and the disciples step out from the cenacle doors. Jerusalem, for now, dotted with small insurgent fires.

APOSTLE PHILIP

I know a way. Not the most comfortable manner of traveling - but a safe one.

EXT. EDGE OF THE DESERT - LATER - NIGHT

Mary and Apostle John walk and stop at the desert's pitch black edge. They prepare their traveling supplies.

Mary Magdalen stands alone - anguished.

MARY MAGDELEN

Mary?

Mary turns. She sees her most beloved friend standing before her alone.

MARY

Mary. My most loyal companion, my friend, the one with whom I could share my sorrows.

MARY MAGDELEN

I'm still sharing them, and will always do so.

MARY

Keep heart, my friend. Even above myself, Jesus revealed himself to you first relieving Eden's curse of Eve. You saw his first steps of his choice to tell the world of the new age of grace and forgiveness. He keeps you, and I will always keep you. But now you must keep the Apostles. They'll need you.

MARY MAGDELEN

I'll keep them, Mary.

The Apostles join them. Philip points out to the desert toward a large, barely visible, slow moving cloud of dust 500 yards out.

APOSTLE PHILIP  
Refugees from Gaza and Hebron. They  
caravan toward Joppa.

Remaining disciples see to their final needs. Philip gives to John a sack of fresh fruit and bladders of water.

APOSTLE PHILIP (CONT'D)  
John, give this to them. Join them  
in the rear of their people.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Yes. Thank you, Philip.

APOSTLE SIMON  
They'll leave you alone there.

Vered and Yaffa nearby prepare their good-byes.

MARY  
Yaffa? Vered? You've been loyal to  
me, and loyal to the father in  
every minute. Keep your faith. The  
disciples will keep you.

Mary opens her arms and holds on to both - wiping away Vered and Yaffa's tears.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I will see you both in heaven.

Mary and John turn to their friends - moment of separation.

MARY (CONT'D)  
You have your commissions. Speak to  
that what you have seen and heard.

In the distance, beyond our travelers, the refugee caravan moves gradually across the desert.

Mary reaches out to every Apostle and holds them.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Remember, you have seen the risen,  
Lord. Like sheep among wolves.  
Shrewd as snakes, innocent as  
doves." You knew him, as I did as  
his mother. I love each and every  
one of you. Keep me in your prayers  
as I will keep you all at heaven's  
gate.

Mary and Apostle John turn to face the awaiting, black desert night.

EXT. DESERT - PITCH BLACK - NIGHT

Mary, John walk in the darkness. Winds whirl and whip about.  
John covers his head and face.

APOSTLE JOHN  
The sand cuts sharply. Cover your  
eyes and mouth, Mother.

EXT. REAR DESERT POSITION - NIGHT

60 yards or so away, barely visible through the storm of  
dust, Lucifer's confederates, Baphomet, Alastor, Asmodeus,  
and Astaroth follow the colony like slow trotting wolves.

ALASTOR  
The mother of the anointed is on  
the run.

BAPHOMET  
She tires like the others. Eats  
like the others.

EXT. DESERT - PITCH BLACK - NIGHT

Mary looks to see Roman guards on horseback escorting the  
caravan from afar.

MARY  
Roman soldiers.

APOSTLE JOHN  
They intend to keep the caravan in  
the desert.

EXT. BACK OF CARAVAN - NIGHT

Mary and Apostle John approach the rear of the slow moving  
convoy.

A few in the meandering crowd turn their heads back to see  
Mary and John who approach from behind.

The truth of the caravan is then revealed.

We see Men, Women, and Children, who all wear a type of  
certain, specified clothing, with extreme disfiguring skin  
sores on their arms, legs and faces which cover their entire  
bodies.

Infants weep, the aged wail - horrible.

The caravan providing Mary and John their autonomy is a slow  
moving Leper Colony.



MARY

These people have been pushed out  
to the desert to die.

EXT. LEPER CAMP - LATER - NIGHT

Mary and John slowly walk through the leper refugee camp. The sick, exhausted, periled and exposed rest from the merciless desert exile.

Seeing newcomers, the sick cry out.

LEPER WOMAN

Lepers! Lepers! Stay away from us!  
Lepers...

Small handbells from the sick begin to dimly ring from the darkness.

LEPER MAN

Stay away.

Like a growing fire, the lepers pronounce themselves unclean and dutifully warn the newcomers.

LEPER MAN (CONT'D)

We're sick! Unclean! Unclean!

MARY

We have food, and water.

The lepers shun themselves from Mary and John as socially directed. Warning bells warn warily from weakened hands.

BAPHOMET LEPER (O.C.)

They warn you.

Baphomet, wearing the disfigurement of a leper, approaches John.

BAPHOMET LEPER (CONT'D)

We know who you are - she's the  
mother of the annointed. It's not  
safe for her here. We can get you  
to a nearby village. Where she'll  
be looked after, tended to.

Alastor, wearing the disfigurement of a leper, approaches Mary.

ALASTOR LEPER

Mary of Nazareth. We heard your  
name. We know you. This band of  
lepers are mostly thieves, and  
criminals. They carry disease.

(MORE)

ALASTOR LEPER (CONT'D)

We have resources in the city,  
where you can stay in comfort. We  
can take you there.

Mary turns to both Leper Baphomet and Leper Alastor.

MARY

It's only Lucifer's angels who  
would suggest separating God from  
his own people.

BAPHOMET LEPER

We only look to be of service.

MARY

To whom? I know who you are. Away  
from us and away from this colony.  
Go back to the dark desert where  
you came from.

EXT. DESERT LEPER CAMP - 3 AM - NIGHT

An oil lamp is lit. A small flame repels the darkness.

A LEPER WOMAN (57) approaches Mary. She is still - tepid. Her  
face is badly contorted by lesions and open wounds.

LEPER WOMAN

I heard from the back of the colony  
the name, "Mary of Nazareth". Are  
you, Mary of Nazareth?

MARY

I am.

LEPER WOMAN

Who was presented at the Temple  
before Hiliel?

MARY

Yes.

LEPER WOMAN

Do you recognize my voice, Mary?  
Beyond how I now look?

Mary, in astonishment, stands.

RIVKA

I'm Rivka. Rivka of Jericho. We  
were friends at the Temple.

She looks at Rivka and the sickness in her body.

MARY

Rivka... Yes... Yes...

Overwhelmed. Rivka steps back away from Mary.

RIVKA

Don't touch me, Mary. Please.  
You'll be unclean. Touch is no  
longer a luxury for us.

Mary, pauses, steps forward and reaches for Rivka's hand.

MARY

You are my friend. You could never  
make me unclean, Rivka.

RIVKA

No, Mary... please.

More from the colony now gather and surround the dimly lit  
oil lamp, Mary and Rivka.

MARY

Touch my hand. Let not fear or the  
years of our separation keep us  
that way.

RIVKA

You risk getting sick. I couldn't  
do that. You'll be banned to live  
in the desert until you die, like  
we've been.

Mary reaches out her hand.

MARY

Touch my hand, Rivka. Close your  
eyes and follow my voice.

Cautiously, tentatively Rivka reaches for it - fingertips to  
fingertips. She opens her eyes...

RIVKA

Mary...

MARY

My beautiful friend.

Rivka opens her eyes. Mary moves closer to embrace her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Be not afraid. All of you. John,  
help them. Sit, near me, all of  
you, please. Rivka, at my right  
side before the lamp light.

The lepers begin to move close and find their places in an ever widening circle around Mary and John.

Mary reaches for her sack of food.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 My son had fed 5,000 from seven  
 loaves of bread and fish. Tonight,  
 we will do the same. Tonight, we  
 all shall eat of his body and drink  
 of his blood - in remembrance of  
 him.

EXT. CARAVAN - FOLLOWING MORNING - DAY

Those in the caravan awaken to the welcome gift of their bodies now eradicated from the sickness of leprosy.

Welcome cries of gratitude fill the camp. Healthy and clean bodies awake.

Leper warning bells are tossed into a refuse pile by all.

Mary and John stride through the camp toward the open and awaiting desert.

EXT. ROMAN PARAMETER - DAY

The half-a-dozen Roman Guards who patrol from afar, turn their horses back toward Jerusalem and gallop away.

EXT. DESERT - LATER - DAY

Israeli sky is a wondrous ocean blue.

The winds have stopped, the Lepers walk briskly now healed and cleaned. A welcoming city lies in the distance.

Rivka, refreshed, healed, and now beautiful walks with Mary and John.

RIVKA  
 The city will take us now, Mary.

MARY  
 Give thanks, keep your faith, and  
 think of me, Rivka.

RIVKA  
 There won't be a moment otherwise.  
 Not even in my sleep.

Rivka reaches out for both Mary and John and holds onto them. The caravan pushes past - no longer in exile.

MARY  
Blessed are those forgotten  
refugees, and in his name, have  
been refreshed again.

EXT. ISRAELI PLAIN - DAYS LATER - MORNING - DAY

Mary and Apostle John arrive to a view of meandering fields  
of olive trees and barley meadows. Beyond those, the crystal  
blue sea of - The Gulf of Heburon.

In the distance, a small farmhouse.

APOSTLE JOHN  
There... We can inquire there of a  
passage to Ephesus.

EXT. SMALL FARMHOUSE - DAY

Apostle John and Mary approach. Children play about their  
livestock of goats, and small animals.

An OLD MAN (70's), very welcoming, steps out from his small  
house.

APOSTLE JOHN  
Hello. We've come through the  
desert. We could use some water.

OLD MAN  
Yes, yes, of course... It's rare  
travelers come from so far on foot!

INT. SMALL FARMHOUSE - LATER - DAY

Mary sits at a small table as the Old Man prepares a plate of  
grapes and figs. John is seen outside, speaking to the  
children, and drawing water from the cistern.

The Old Man sits.

MARY  
You're very kind.

OLD MAN  
You've traveled far.

MARY  
Yes, from Jerusalem.

The Old Man places a branch from a date palm down on the  
table next to the plate of grapes.

MARY (CONT'D)  
What's this?

OLD MAN  
Your sign of victory, Mary.

MARY  
What?

OLD MAN  
Your son and Lord bids you. It's  
time for his mother to go to him.  
It's time for you to relinquish  
this world.

MARY  
Who are you?

OLD MAN  
And old friend. Do you recognize my  
voice? It's been so long since  
we've first spoken.

MARY  
Gabriel?

GABRIEL / OLD MAN  
The Lord is with you.

MARY  
Gabriel...

GABRIEL / OLD MAN  
You've taken his cup. Your work is  
done. It is accomplished.

EXT. OPEN SEA - BOAT - NIGHT

Mary sits alone at the bow of the vessel. Apostle John tends  
to duties in the back of the craft.

Mary looks out to the great Aegean Sea. She considers her  
son, her work, her leaving of this world.

Smiles and tears both come from the memories of loss and  
victory. Breaking her peace, is an unsettling voice.

LUCIFER (O.S.)  
I regret, regret what I've done,  
Mary.

Mary turns to see Lucifer sitting next to her. Both look out  
to the reflective moon.

MARY

You regret only you learned he was  
the Christ. That's what you regret.

LUCIFER

You say my name with such contempt.  
Such distance. I did love him. And,  
he loved me above all.

MARY

Your works are fully known. The  
time to have conquered your impulse  
has passed. You chose for yourself,  
Morning Star.

Lucifer breaks down in tears.

LUCIFER

You've been given the power to  
console. The mother of mercy... He  
gave you the power to extend  
forgiveness. Extend it to me now.

MARY

I know only that your heart has  
been made known. What is bound by  
me will be bound in heaven. You  
have authored it yourself, with  
your own hands.

Lucifer gets up.

LUCIFER

He loved me.

MARY

And you betrayed it.

LUCIFER

We will be relentless.

MARY

And, we will meet you there.

A small pinprick of light emanates from the dark horizon line  
at sea.

MARY (CONT'D)

Away from me, Satan.

APOSTLE PETER (V.O.)

I believe in one God.

EXT. NERO'S CRUCIFIXION SITE - DAY

Apostle Peter is hung upside down on a Roman Cross.

His body is whipped and bludgeoned. Peter mumbles his prayers through his agonizing torture.

APOSTLE PETER  
The Father Almighty, Creator of  
Heaven and Earth.

Baphmomet stalks the Apostle, whipping, bludgeoning.

EXT. GREEK CRUCIFIXION SITE - MORNING - DAY

Apostle Andrew's body is pulled across an X-shaped cross.

APOSTLE ANDREW  
And in Jesus Christ, our only son  
our Lord.

Alastor turns his back, and walks away.

EXT. OPEN SEA - BOAT - NIGHT

Mary opens her eyes to see a gaining source of light coming towards her.

JAMES THE GREATER (V.O.)  
Who was conceived through the Holy  
Ghost.

EXT. 100 FOOT CLIFF - DAY

James is thrown off its ledge by an incensed crowd. A crowd led by Asmodeus.

JAMES THE GREATER (V.O.)  
Born of the virgin Mary.

EXT. INDIA - DAY

Apostle Thomas faces an angry mob with spears. Astaroth's paces.

APOSTLE THOMAS (V.O.)  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, died and was buried.

He is grabbed, tied down by the neck.

APOSTLE THOMAS  
Descended into hell, arose from the  
dead on the third day.



EXT. PALESTINE - HEROD'S EXECUTIONER'S TABLE - DAY

Apostle James the Less - his head is laid on the executioner's block.

APOSTLE JAMES THE LESS  
Ascended into heaven, is seated at  
the right hand of God the Father.

EXT. OPEN SEA - BOAT - NIGHT

Apostle John sits next to Mary. Both gaze at the oncoming presence of emanating light.

Mary gives to John the date palm Gabriel had given to her.

MARY  
Write, John. Tell the world of what  
you've seen, and what you will see.

INT. EXECUTIONER'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Apostle Philip is impaled through his ankles and left to hang upside down.

APOSTLE PHILIP (V.O.)  
He shall judge the living and dead.

EXT. ASIA MINOR - DAY

Apostle Bartholomew is flayed to death by more Romans Soldiers.

APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW (V.O.)  
We believe in the Holy Ghost.

EXT. HEROD'S BASTILLE - DAY

Apostle Mathew and Apostle Simon are brutally stoned - led to the executions stump - both beheaded.

APOSTLE MATHEW	APOSTLE SIMON
The communion of Saints.	The forgiveness of sins.

EXT. NERO'S GARRISON - DAY

Apostle Jude Thaddeus stands before a dozen Roman Guards who unceasingly draw back their bows and let arrows fly!

APOSTLE JUDE THADDEUS (V.O.)  
The resurrection of the dead.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Mary lifts her eyes.

MARY

And, life everlasting.

Mary is alone on the boat. She looks to her left and right.  
The waters are calm - silence.

Standing upon the water before her - is her son, Jesus. Calm,  
inviting, peaceful, reassuring.

He reaches out his hand.

JESUS

Let me take you home, mother.

Mary steps to the end of the bow of the boat - steps off onto  
the water where her son stands.

Both turn and begin walking away from the boat toward the  
gathering light in the distant horizon.

JESUS (CONT'D)

It is done...

EXT. TEMPLE GROUNDS - MONTHS LATER - DAY

Dark and clouded skies build above.

We see a group of young children who play seed ball in the  
temple courtyard.

One of the kids kicks the ball out of bounds. The ball rolls  
across the courtyard and arrives at the feet of another young  
boy... The Demon Boy.

Standing on the boundary's edge, he looks down to the ball at  
his feet...

A YOUNG GIRL (12) approaches. She looks at the boy who  
appears to be all alone.

YOUNG GIRL

Are you alone?

DEMON BOY

I was just watching.

YOUNG GIRL

You can play with us if you'd like  
to?

The Demon Boy smiles, kicks the ball.

DEMON BOY  
I'd like that...

He kicks the ball forward and begins walking toward the other children in the courtyard...

*THE END*